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The NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

VOLUME XXIX

NUMBER 3

MARCH, 1939

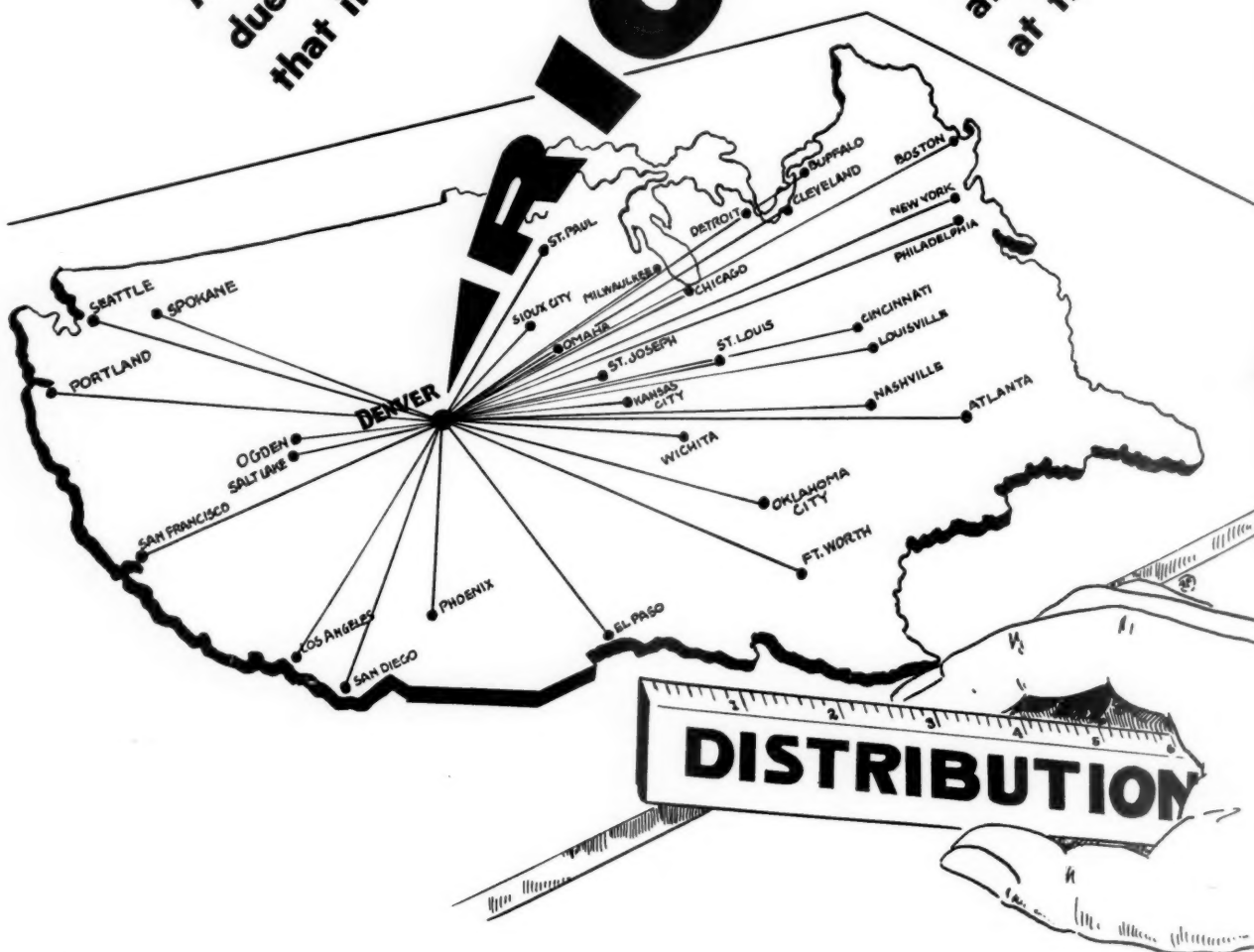
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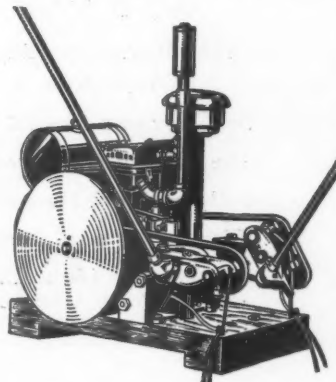
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March, 1939

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The National Wool Grower

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES—Payment of dues in the National Wool Growers Association includes a year's subscription to the National Wool Grower. Dues and subscriptions are received along with state association dues by the secretaries shown for the following states, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. To non-members in the United States and Canada \$1.50 per year; foreign, \$2.00 per year.

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Sheep and Wool Affairs at Washington

AT the end of the first three weeks of my stay in Washington progress can be reported on several lines that are of concern to the sheep industry. Unfortunately it has not yet been possible to secure final official action upon any of our objectives. These objectives will be discussed in order.

Renewal of Wool Loan

On the renewal of the wool marketing loan, the officials' hands were tied until February 24. (This is being written on March 4.) The Commodity Credit Corporation was due to expire next June and the committees in both branches of Congress did considerable discussing before the law was amended (February 24) to continue the corporation until 1941 with authorized capital of \$900,000,000. The corporation's loans on 11 million bales of cotton were the cause of most of the discussion.

The two officials of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration who worked out the 1938 wool plan and prepared it for the approval of the President and the Secretary of Agriculture are no longer with the government. Their successors in the A.A.A. are most fair and capable. They must of course familiarize and satisfy themselves upon all angles of wool loaning, since the law requires that such loans must first be proposed to the Commodity Credit Corporation by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Last year's loan was figured to average 17.3 cents at the farm or ranch. That was 75 per cent of the "parity price." The parity price is based on the average farm price of the pre-war period (August 1909 to July 1914) which, for wool, was 18.3 cents. Then that figure was increased by 26 per cent because farmers were then paying for the things they bought 26 per cent more than in the pre-war period. The 75 per cent loan on wool is the highest proportion of the parity price that has been loaned on any commodity under the Act of 1938. If it should be decided to again loan 75 per cent on wool the actual loan would be slightly below last year because there has been some decline in the index of prices paid by farmers.

Messrs. Fawcett and Wilson and I hope to reach the final session soon. The announcement of whether there will be a loan and its rate will be made by the Commodity Credit Corporation whenever the decision is reached.

Trade Agreements

Both the Congress and the Department of State seem to have lost interest in the Trade Agreement Program. Rumors still persist regarding intention of the State Department officials to effect a trade with Australia or Argentina, but no one knows what basis there is for the rumor.

In the Congress twenty-four bills have been introduced calling for everything from cancellation of trade agreements already made down to the milder, but very effective proposal of the O'Mahoney resolution declaring it to be the opinion of the Senate that, under the provisions of the Constitution, trade agreements should be approved by the Senate. None of the bills or resolutions have been set for committee hearing. It is plain that a great many Senators and Congressmen are opposed to the trade agreement idea but whether or not they are in a majority is not known. Perhaps the unpopularity of the agreements is causing the State Department to delay making new ones until more can be known about the effects of the last ones with the United Kingdom and Canada. Or the threat of some Congressmen to repeal the law of 1934 if further change is made in the sugar duty may have given pause.

The western group in the House of Representatives has named a committee consisting of Murdock (Utah), O'Connor (Montana) and Pierce (Oregon) to lodge with Secretary Hull a protest against any change in wool duties.

It is interesting to observe that the power to make trade agreements given by Congress to the President expires on June 1, 1940. If the program is to continue it will be necessary to have action by Congress in advance of the next election. This consideration may also give pause to the State Department, though it still is possible to announce intention to negotiate with other countries and to complete new agreements while the present law is in effect.

Appropriation for Predatory Animal Control

Our testimony in favor of increasing to \$1,000,000 the appropriation to the Biological Survey for predatory animal and rodent control was given on February 28 before the subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations. The committee is taking a strong position of opposition to increases in appropriations to the department. We argued that the extra \$350,000 requested would save many times that amount to western stockmen and farmers, and that such expenditures made now might permit a lower appropriation after coyotes are brought under control; also that the federal government is not contributing its share in view of its land holdings in the West and the larger amounts furnished by the states, counties, and stockmen's organizations.

Fabric Labeling

The "Wool Products Labeling Bill" (Senate 162) was the subject of three days of hearings before a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. The corresponding committee of the House opened

hearings on February 28, which were expected to close about March 10. The arguments and testimony on both sides are much the same as those presented last year when the Schwartz bill passed the Senate and was favorably reported by the House Committee.

A large part of the testimony of opponents is aimed at the provision which would require labeling of cloth or garments to show the content of reclaimed wool. The cloak and suit manufacturers of New York and the spokesmen for manufacturers of men's suits object to labeling to show even the content of rayon or cotton. Congressman Martin (Colorado), sponsor of H.R. 944, and Congressman South (Texas) have taken a very strong stand for the bill in the hearings. Mr. Wilson came to Washington direct from the

convention in Texas to work on the fabric labeling bill.

Reorganization

A new and greatly toned down bill for reorganization of government departments is scheduled for consideration by the House on March 6. This bill would prescribe limits for shifting of bureaus by the President and would allow the Congress to veto his recommendations. At that the measure is likely to be further modified before being sent to the Senate. Western Congressmen have given notice that they will oppose any bill that would make possible the transfer of the Forest Service.

F. R. M.

Reduction in Interest Rates

FOLLOWING action of the Boards of Directors of the twelve Federal Intermediate Credit Banks, the loan and discount rate of the banks was reduced to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum effective February 24. In announcing the reduction, the Farm Credit Administration pointed out that during the past five years the loan and discount rate has been reduced from 3 per cent to the present rate. During the same period, the earnings of the banks, after payment of all expenses and provision for reserves, amounted to \$12,327,000, before payment to the government of franchise taxes amounting to \$1,501,000.

The rate of interest on agricultural production loans handled by the 535 local production credit associations will be reduced from 5 per cent to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on all money advanced beginning February 24, since the rate of interest charged by these associations is related to the rate of discount charged by the Federal Intermediate Credit Banks. The new rate, on the present volume of business, will mean a saving of approximately \$800,000 this year to production credit association members.

The 12 district banks for cooperatives and the Central Bank for Cooperatives also will reduce their interest charges on new loans made for operating purposes and on commodities to farmers' cooperative buying or selling organizations. The new rate on operating capital loans to farmers' buying and selling cooperatives will be $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, or a reduction of one half of one

per cent, and on commodity loans the new rate will be $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, a similar reduction. Facility loans by the banks for cooperatives will remain at 4 per cent.

Sheepmen's Calendar

Interstate Junior Livestock Show, Treasure Island, San Francisco—April 2-9

California Ram Sale, Sacramento—May 22-23

Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, North Salt Lake, Utah—June 7-9

California Wool Growers' Convention, San Francisco—September 21-22

Golden Gate International Exposition Sheep Show, Treasure Island, San Francisco—September 23-October 2

Golden Gate International Exposition Wool Show, Treasure Island, San Francisco—September 23-October 2

C. C. C. Wool Loans

UNDER the loan plan of the Commodity Credit Corporation effective during 1938, \$14,916,065.09 was loaned on 82,587,824 net grease pounds of wool. Through February 11, repayments made totaled \$7,206,679.96 on 40,068,600 net grease pounds, or over 48 per cent of the entire loans.

Of the loans outstanding at that time, \$7,290,002.92 secured by 40,008,025 pounds of wool was carried by banks and other lending agencies.

The Commodity Credit Corporation has extended the time within which it would purchase acceptable loans from qualified lending agencies from February 28, 1939, to April 15, 1939, and fixed the interest allowance to such agencies during that extended period of time at $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent instead of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Lower Grazing Fees For 1939

LOWER fees for national forest grazing have been announced for 1939. The average grazing fee for cattle will be 13.4 cents per head per month, a decrease of 1.58 cents or 11 per cent from last year's average, while the average fee for sheep will be 3.3 cents per head per month, which is .94 cents or 27 per cent lower than the 1938 fee.

These fees are figured according to a formula prescribed by Secretary Wallace in May, 1933, following years of effort on the part of the National Wool Growers Association and the American National Live Stock Association to have established an equitable manner of arriving at the charges to be made for national forest grazing. Under the formula set up by the Secretary's order in 1933, grazing fees for the current year bear the same ratio to prices received by stockmen for their beef cattle or lambs in the preceding year as existed between fees and market prices in 1931. In that year the average price received for beef cattle was \$6.62 per hundred pounds and the average grazing fee 14.5 cents; last year the average price for beef cattle was figured as \$6.11 and the 1939 grazing fee for cattle is 8 per cent lower than the 1931 rate.

The average price received for lambs last year is given as \$6.74 per hundred pounds; in 1931 it was \$9.15 and the grazing fee, 4.5 cents. The 1939 sheep grazing fee is 27 per cent below that rate.

In Support of the Million-Dollar Predator Control Appropriation

Representatives of the National Wool Growers Association appeared before a Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations on February 28 in support of the effort to increase the appropriation for predatory animal and rodent control by the Biological Survey from the amount estimated, \$650,000, to \$1,000,000. The testimony of the National Secretary before the committee is presented here.

MY short testimony relates to the appropriation for predatory animal and rodent control as carried on by the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture.

I understand that the total allotment for this purpose stands in the estimates at \$650,000 for the fiscal year 1940 and that the departmental estimate was \$1,000,000.

I fully appreciate the necessary attitude of your committee regarding increased appropriations.

I am making a very short statement, because I think I can clearly show that the road to true economy in this connection is through temporarily increased allotment to the Biological Survey for this particular purpose.

The Association which I represent is an affiliation of wool growers' organizations in the eleven public land states and in Texas. These states have over 36,000,000 of the 53,000,000 sheep in the United States and all of these states are deeply interested in this coyote problem. It is my own estimate that the annual loss to sheep owners through coyotes exceeds five million dollars per year.

I shall make no further reference to the partial use of this fund for rodent control. Mr. W. R. Ogg, of the Farm Bureau Federation, advises me that that organization supports us in this request and that he hopes to present their testimony to you at a later time.

I leave here for your reference resolutions recently passed by my own Association and by twelve other organizations, all of which request the allotment of \$1,000,000 per year for control

work in connection with predatory animals and rodents.

You have been appropriating to this bureau for this purpose since 1915. For the fiscal year 1930 the federal appropriation for coyote control alone was \$326,000. In that year states, counties and livestock associations added \$610,000 for coyote control alone. The actual count on predatory animals taken in that year was 46,970.

In 1930 it seemed probable that the predatory animal situation could be almost completely nullified if the program could be expanded for a few years. It was in response to this argument that the Congress in 1931 authorized an appropriation of \$1,000,000 per year for predatory animal and rodent control. Numbers of coyotes and losses caused by them were then declining. From 1932 to 1935 the amount appropriated for this purpose declined. At the same time, due to the depression, the cooperative funds available also declined. We now have more coyotes in the western sheep range country than at any time within the last twenty years. This is shown by the fact that, while the actual count of catch in 1930 was 46,970, in 1938 it was 94,040. This is because these animals had such a good opportunity to breed through the years when funds were low and the low price of furs made it unattractive for private hunters to continue their operations. An official statement adopted last month by the convention of the Utah Wool Growers Association contains a statement that 100,000 sheep are destroyed annually by predatory animals in Utah. This represents

at least a half million dollars' annual loss in sheep alone.

I am also leaving on the table here a list of specific instances of losses caused by predatory animals to livestock and game animals. I will refer briefly to a few samples from that list:

Ray Smith, of Craig, Colorado, lost 60 deer from coyotes in the first twenty days of December, 1938.

In 1938 Albert Pierson, of Walden, Colorado, counted 26 deer and 23 sage chickens, killed by coyotes.

In September 1938, I. D. Aden, of Vermejo Park, New Mexico, reported five calves killed by coyotes, and another man in the same area reported six.

In two months during the 1937 grazing season stockmen running sheep on the Medicine Bow National Forest in Wyoming reported the loss of 3,108 lambs and ewes valued at \$14,000.

The states and counties, in the present fiscal year, are appropriating twice as much money for this purpose as comes from the federal government. The federal government's liability comes largely through the fact that it is the chief land owner in these states as a whole. There are over 142,000,000 acres in the public domain and something over 150,000,000 acres in the national forests of the public land states. These areas, in addition to those included in national parks, constitute the chief breeding ground for these predatory animals.

I would not appear here if I were not fully convinced that the addition of \$350,000 to this allotment for the use of the Biological Survey would effect an annual savings to stockmen of many times that amount and also would make it possible, within a few years, to reduce the amount necessary to be expended by the Biological Survey in keeping these predatory animals under control.

For the present fiscal year the Survey is using in the states of Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Montana, and Wyoming, WPA money in the total amount of \$162,915. It is the feeling of the western stockmen and also, I believe, of the Survey officials that this amount of money made available through regular appropriation would be twice as effective as

it now is. If you make this appropriation of a million dollars, we would, of course, expect that the state allotments of WPA funds combatting predatory animals would be eliminated.

F. R. Marshall

Secretary, National Wool Growers Association

Annual Livestock Inventory, January 1, 1939

A GENERAL tendency to expand production of meat animals and animal products is reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture in its release of February 16 on the annual inventory estimates of livestock on farms on January 1 of this year.

The numbers of cattle, sheep, and hogs and of milk cows and chickens on farms on January 1, 1939, were larger than a year earlier. On the other hand, the numbers of work stock—both horses and mules—continued to decline.

The increase in the number of hogs was relatively large, being 11 per cent, while only moderate increases of about 1 per cent for cattle and 2 per cent for sheep are shown. The number of milk cows was larger by 1 per cent. Horses declined 3 per cent and mules 1 per cent. When the numbers of all these species are converted to an animal unit basis, which allows for differences in size and feed requirements of the several species, there was an increase of about 2 per cent in total animal units from last year.

The tendency to increase meat animals was general all over the country. The number of cattle was larger than a year earlier in all but 9 states, the number of hogs was up in all but 8 states, and the number of stock sheep was up in 21 of the 32 states where sheep production is of some importance. Milk cow numbers increased in all but 14 states and the larger number of yearling heifers and heifer calves being kept for milk cows pointed to further increases. The number of chickens

was larger than a year earlier in all but 6 states.

Cattle

The estimated number of cattle on farms January 1 this year, of 66,821,000 head, was 738,000 head or 1 per cent larger than a year earlier. Although numbers were up in nearly all states, sharp decreases were shown for Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, from which states shipments last year were of near record size. The increase this year was largely in calves and yearling

heifers two years old and over kept for steers somewhat smaller.

The number of milk cows (cows and heifers two years old and over kept for milk) on January 1 this year was estimated at 25,093,000 head, an increase of 259,000 head or 1 per cent. The number of yearlings being kept for milk cows of 5,138,000 head was up 264,000 head or 5 per cent and the number of heifer calves being kept for milk cows of 5,635,000 was up 248,000 head.

Hogs

The estimated number of hogs on January 1 this year was 49,011,000 head, an increase of 4,793,000 head or 11 per cent over a year earlier. The number at the beginning of this year was the largest since 1934. All of the increase over last year was in pigs under 5 months old and in sows and gilts for breeding, with the number of other hogs smaller.

Sheep

The number of all sheep and lambs on January 1 this year was estimated

Sheep Numbers as of January 1, 1938 and 1939

STATE	Stock Sheep			Sheep and Lambs on Feed (2)	
	1938	1939 (1)	% of 1938	1938	1939 (1)
Iowa	1,216,000	1,240,000	102	470,000	470,000
Michigan	1,023,000	1,033,000	101	286,000	257,000
Minnesota	1,020,000	1,040,000	102	285,000	285,000
Missouri	1,321,000	1,387,000	105	120,000	144,000
Ohio	2,188,000	2,166,000	99	345,000	324,000
South Dakota	1,151,000	1,209,000	105	193,000	183,000
Other 30 Native					
Lamb States	7,430,000	7,555,000	102	1,713,000	1,630,000
TOTAL NATIVE STATES	15,349,000	15,630,000	102	3,412,000	3,293,000
(ALL SHEEP AND					
LAMBS	18,761,000	18,923,000	100.8)		
Arizona	832,000	824,000	99	10,000	9,000
California	3,434,000	3,537,000	103	90,000	121,000
Colorado	1,668,000	1,718,000	103	1,185,000	1,090,000
Idaho	1,978,000	1,879,000	95	225,000	210,000
Montana	2,736,000	3,010,000	110	190,000	200,000
Nevada	809,000	833,000	103	7,000	12,000
New Mexico	2,315,000	2,269,000	98	70,000	65,000
Oregon	2,043,000	2,084,000	102	75,000	60,000
Texas	9,100,000	9,646,000	106	220,000	210,000
Utah	2,377,000	2,377,000	100	240,000	144,000
Washington	635,000	641,000	101	35,000	41,000
Wyoming	3,409,000	3,614,000	106	238,000	245,000
TOTAL WESTERN					
STATES	31,336,000	32,432,000	103	2,585,000	2,407,000
(ALL SHEEP AND					
LAMBS	33,921,000	34,839,000	103)		
TOTAL UNITED STATES	46,685,000	48,062,000	103	5,997,000	5,700,000
(ALL SHEEP AND					
LAMBS	52,682,000	53,762,000	102)		

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at 53,762,000 head, with an increase of 1,080,000 head or 2 per cent. The number of sheep and lambs on feed for market on January 1 of 5,700,000 head was 297,000 head smaller than a year earlier. The number of stock sheep of 48,062,000 head was 1,377,000 head or 3 per cent larger.

The increase in stock sheep was about the same in both the number of ewe lambs being kept for breeding ewes, and in ewes 1 year old and over. The number of stock sheep was larger this year than last in both the native and western sheep areas, but with most of the increase in the western area where numbers were up materially in Texas, Montana, and Wyoming and in the range area of South Dakota. A 10 per cent increase is recorded for Montana while in Texas and Wyoming the rise is a 6 per cent one. In Idaho stock sheep numbers at the beginning of this year were 5 per cent under those of a year earlier; Arizona was down 1 per cent; New Mexico 2 per cent, and no change is shown for Utah. All other western states show increases.

The table gives the numbers of stock sheep and sheep and lambs on feed on January 1, 1938 and 1939, for the principal sheep states.

I. C. C. Decision in Feeder Rate Cases

DECISION favorable to stockmen was handed down on February 13, 1939, by the Interstate Commerce Commission in two feeder rate cases in which the American National Live Stock and National Wool Growers Associations were parties: No. 27674, Matador Land and Cattle Company v. Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company, et al, and No. 27812, American National Live Stock Association, et al, v. Abilene and Southern Railway Company, et al.

These cases, which were consolidated and handled as one procedure by the Commission, were both based on the rule published by the defendant-carriers as early as January, 1932, but not enforced until the early part of 1935 and then only in California, in

which the application of the 85 per cent feeder and stocker rate was made contingent upon reshipment of the stock by rail from the pastures or feed lots.

This rule was found unreasonable and the defendants were ordered:

To cease and desist, on or before May 24, 1939, and thereafter to abstain from publishing, maintaining, and applying tariff rules which make rail shipment of livestock from pasture and feed points a condition precedent to final application of stock-feeder rates on stocker and feeder livestock from and to transcontinental points in British Columbia, Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and western New Mexico to and from all points within the United States east of those states.

While somewhat similar, these cases must not be confused with the reopened proceeding in Docket 17,000 Part 9 in which hearings have been completed and briefs are being submitted this month. In this latter case the railroads are proposing to apply a somewhat similar rule to the entire western district. Naturally livestock shippers are hopeful that the recent decision by the Commission is indicative of their stand in the reopened Docket 17,000 Part 9 case, but the Commission's report states it is made "without prejudice to any different conclusion respecting a rule for the future, which may be reached in the reopened Livestock-Western District Rates, supra, upon the broader record therein made."

New Secretary for Montana Association

PAUL ETCHEPARE, son of the late John Etchepare, prominent sheepman of Glasgow, Montana, has been chosen by the Board of Directors to succeed Mrs. Kathleen Nielsen, resigned, as secretary-treasurer of the Montana Wool Growers Association. This action was taken by the Board at a meeting on February 16 and Mr. Etchepare assumed his duties on March 1.

The new secretary attended the Montana State College at Bozeman and has been recently employed by the government in connection with its farm program.

The office of the Montana Association will be continued at Helena.

Besse Heads Manufacturers Organization Again

ARTHUR BESSE was reelected president of the National Wool Manufacturers Association at its recent annual meeting in New York City. Vice presidents include Franklin W. Hobbs, Abbot Stevens, E. D. Walen and H. M. Ashby. Walter Humphreys was again named secretary-treasurer.

Lamb Promotion for 1939 Commences

THE cover of the Wool Grower this month carries a reproduction of one of a set of seven colorful streamers designed by the National Live Stock and Meat Board for use in special promotional work on lamb this spring.

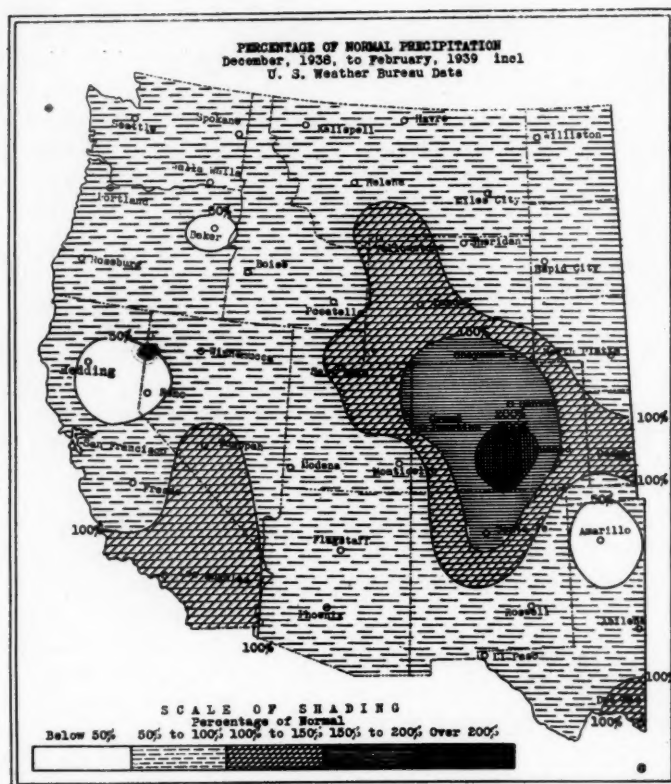
The work, which is to have national scope, is financed principally by the New Mexico Wool Growers Association, with the Colorado-Nebraska Lamb Feeders Association contributing. Aid also is being received from the Institute of American Meat Packers, whose cooperation has made it possible to place 100,000 sets of the new streamers in the hands of meat retailers over the country.

A second piece of lamb literature prepared by the Meat Board for use in the lamb advertising is a folder which will tell the three quarters of a million housewives it is to reach through cooking schools, radio programs, meat shops, how to cook lamb properly, how to carve it, as well as giving a number of new lamb dishes. A new lamb sticker is also having widespread use.

Cooking schools in 65 cities and lamb cutting demonstrations in 230 cities are scheduled. And, of course, the Meat Board is putting the story of lamb out before the public through every channel available to it: newspapers, food departments in periodical magazines, and radio programs.

The Meat Board offers to furnish, free of charge, to anyone who can use them to advantage, copies of either the lamb streamers or folders, thus providing an opportunity for sheepmen to boost lamb locally.

The Winter's Snowfall



ABOUT three fourths of the area covered by this report has had less than normal precipitation (rain and snow) for the past winter as a whole, according to the chart and tabular data submitted herewith. Only Colorado, particularly the eastern portion, has had a notable excess. Most of Colorado, and minor adjoining portions of Wyoming and especially New Mexico, have had 15 per cent or more of the winter's normal. Generally, however, over the rest of the West, where most of the winter sheep grazing areas are located, snows (and a very few rains) have given a moisture total of from 50 to 100 per cent of normal. Only insignificant sections had less than 50

per cent and even these had enough moisture for present needs.

The distribution of the moisture through the winter has been favorable, being fairly uniform through the months. January was somewhat the snowiest, rainiest month of the winter in New Mexico-Texas area, while Colorado's excess was built up during both January and February. December and January were rather favorable months elsewhere, with deficient storms, February being the snowiest, (much the snowiest in places), in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Utah. Owing to cold weather in February, the general snow cover is unusually extensive at the beginning of March.

Precipitation on Western Livestock Ranges During December, 1938, January and February, 1939, With Departures from Normal, for 3 Months, and 6 Months, in Inches

	Normal 3-Months' Precipitation	Actual 3-Months' Precipitation	Excess (+), or Deficiency (-) 3 Months	Excess (+), or Deficiency (-) 6 Months
Washington—				
Seattle	14.43	11.27	-3.16	-6.50
Spokane	6.08	5.55	-0.53	-2.88
Walla Walla	5.78	4.17	-1.61	-2.21
Oregon—				
Portland	18.68	14.11	-4.57	-6.69
Pendleton	4.96	3.54	-1.42	-2.37
Baker	4.32	1.32	-3.00	-3.39
Roseburg	15.14	9.88	-5.26	-5.64
California—				
Redding	19.08	9.50	-9.58	-9.97
San Francisco	12.34	6.49	-5.85	-7.41
Fresno	4.61	4.23	-0.38	-1.18
Los Angeles	8.94	11.35	+2.41	+0.38
Nevada—				
Winnemucca	3.02	1.85	-1.17	-0.53
Reno	3.70	1.66	-2.04	-2.75
Tonopah	1.10	1.27	+0.17	-0.18
Arizona—				
Phoenix	2.57	2.21	-0.36	-2.28
Flagstaff	7.18	5.62	-1.56	-4.16
New Mexico—				
Santa Fe	2.16	3.46	+1.30	+2.16
Roswell	1.76	1.11	-0.65	-2.60
Texas—				
Amarillo	2.02	2.76	+0.74	+0.97
Abilene	3.31	2.22	-1.09	-5.12
Del Rio	1.79	2.49	+0.70	-4.75
El Paso	1.39	1.01	-0.38	-0.43
Montana—				
Helena	2.30	1.13	-1.17	-0.81
Kalispell	4.13	3.33	-0.80	-1.28
Havre	1.84	1.61	-0.23	+0.95
Miles City	1.78	0.96	-0.82	-1.66
Williston, N. D.	1.53	1.61	+0.08	-0.02
Idaho—				
Boise	4.74	3.14	-1.60	-0.12
Pocatello	3.87	2.26	-1.61	-1.02
Utah—				
Salt Lake City	4.25	4.87	+0.62	+0.60
Fillmore	3.75	3.30	-0.45	-0.68
Castle Dale	2.06	2.43	+0.37	+1.09
Monticello	4.30	3.20	-1.10	-1.80
Modena	2.63	2.09	-0.54	+0.41
Wyoming—				
Yellowstone Pk.	2.15	2.83	+0.68	+3.67
Sheridan	2.19	1.93	-0.26	-1.55
Lander	1.87	1.92	+0.05	+0.85
Cheyenne	1.61	2.43	+0.82	+2.64
Rapid City, S.D.	1.37	0.81	-0.56	-1.03
No. Platte, Nebr.	1.45	1.01	-0.44	+2.34
Colorado—				
Denver	1.66	2.64	+0.98	+3.20
Pueblo	1.28	3.09	+1.81	+2.42
Grand Junction	1.81	2.90	+1.09	+1.43
Dodge City, Kan.	1.75	2.04	+0.29	-0.66

Around the Range Country

The notes on weather conditions, appearing under the names of the various states in *Around the Range Country*, are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications for the month of February.

The Wool Grower welcomes and desires communications from interested readers in any part of the country for this department of the *Wool Grower* and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and of importance and significance to wool growers.

WYOMING

Persistently cold weather prevailed, with frequent snowstorms generally over the state. These conditions were more or less inclement on livestock. Shrinkages occurred in many sections, but there were few losses as a result of the weather. Moderately heavy feeding has been necessary, though feed and range forage have been ample practically everywhere. Shed lambing progressed with no untoward conditions.

MONTANA

Most of the month was severely cold, with frequent snowstorms, being rather hard on exposed livestock. Some thawing occurred late in the month,

however, to relieve conditions. Shed lambing has begun under fair to good circumstances. Full to heavy feeding of livestock was necessary most of the month, though some shrinkages were reported locally. Range forage and local feed supplies have been plentiful.

Cut Bank (Glacier County)

The weather has been mild, but the range is dry and water has been a problem, February 25. Have not fed any hay, but the grass is coarse and does not seem to have any food value, so we are feeding as much grain as in prior years. Alfalfa hay in the stack is priced from \$5 to \$7.



"When it's springtime in the Rockies," or any other place in the range sheep country, the ewe with her wobbly legged lamb, or preferably lambs, is a common but pleasing sight. In this picture, Charles J. Belden, well-known livestock photographer, has caught a particularly interesting unit.

About the same number of ewes have been bred to lamb as one year ago. Our winter ewe losses are also about the same.

Coyotes are less numerous than one year ago because last year we paid government hunters to kill pups.

So far as I know there has been no liquidation of sheep outfits here. Expense of production did not decline in 1938 to correspond with lower markets. It is doubtful if any outfits can show interest on investment.

G. S. Frary

Circle
(McCone County)

We have had about average February weather. So far, March 4, the sheep are doing well. There is plenty of grass, but crust snow has been a little tough the past week. We have had much better grass this winter on the range; in the 1936-37 season we had no grass.

About the usual number of ewes were bred to lamb this year. We have had very little winter loss in ewes.

We have known of no outfits being liquidated by creditors in 1938, but in 1936-37 there were some closeouts. Instead of declining to meet lower market prices, the expense of production went higher if anything. I will say if the sheep and wool prices continue to fall there will be fewer sheep, as our overhead expense cannot be cut down. Our present returns are running running neck and neck with expenses.

I feel that the government should take a hand in killing and ridding the range of coyotes. The airplane plan, properly managed and backed by the government with a good ground force at denning time, would lessen the coyotes, and a reasonable bounty thereafter would keep them down. If the bounty were raised as the coyotes got scarcer, it would eventually clean out the coyote pest. Back in 1900 the state bounty was \$5 per head and coyotes began to thin down. Right then the bounty should have been raised to \$7 per head, furs would work higher, and eventually the coyote would be conquered. Instead of raising the bounty, they lowered it, and today it shows plainly that the \$5 state bounty was a

total waste of money, and we have got it all to do over again at more expense and loss to farmers and stockmen. We have got to pay the bill, and the longer we put it off, the bigger it will get. I have worked on the ranges for 40 years, and to my knowledge today we have more coyotes and more damage and loss than we had 40 years ago, and it is caused by our neglect in not raising the bounty instead of lowering it when we had them on the run.

A. M. Goff

Dillon
(Beaverhead County)

We have had some fairly rough weather here today (March 4); a north wind blew most of the day and three or four inches of snow fell. We need the snow as the ground here has been bare the greater part of the winter. However, there is an ample supply piled up in the mountains and the outlook is in our favor from a moisture standpoint, I believe. Stock in general are in very good condition and as the weather was mild during bucking season I look for a big lamb crop. Also I expect better wool and lamb prices this year; in fact I have a fairly optimistic outlook on the 1939 season.

S. E. Whitworth

Grass Range
(Fergus County)

February here has been very good for sheep. We have had some cold weather, but not as cold as former winters, and having lots of feed, we did not notice it as much. We have about 3 inches of snow now, March 5, but it is not cold. We do not have much alfalfa here, but lots of hay is available at \$5 per ton in the stack.

There has been very little loss in ewe bands to date. I think there will be at least one-third more ewes lambing here this year than in 1938.

The number of coyotes has increased as we do not have enough government trappers.

I know of no sheep outfits being liquidated. Most outfits went out of business here in 1935 and 1936, and have not been able to come back yet.

Our cost of production is steadily

rising. There are too many on P.W.A. and not enough real workers. I guess you can't blame these men if the government will pay more for 10 days than ranchers can for 80 days' work.

Robert Forgy

IDAHO

Cold, snowy weather with some winds prevailed, being rather inclement on livestock, and necessitated full feeding rations for all domestic livestock. Range sheep have done well on native forage as a rule. Lambing has become general indoors, with only light to moderate casualties. Hay has been plentiful, and most livestock are thriving.

WASHINGTON

Seasonable temperatures prevailed, though with some colder weather earlier in the month. Rains were frequent, with snows over most eastern counties. Pastures have made an appreciable improvement, and livestock as a general rule are in thriving condition. Spring lambs have also done well in nearly all sections. Much farming work is reported in scattered areas.

Goldendale
(Klickitat County)

About the 8th of February we had a cold spell, 8 or 10 inches of snow and near zero weather for a few days. Then it rained, the snow left, and we have had bright days with frost at night (February 28). The sheep did very well on the range with a little grain.

I don't think we have as many ewes bred to lamb as in 1938, but more ewe lambs were kept last fall for replacements.

Our winter loss has been very small compared to last year.

The bounty on coyotes has induced private trappers to work. They got nearly 100 coyotes around our winter ranges.

There has been no liquidation of sheep outfits near here that I know of. The cost of production has not declined to correspond with lower markets, so most of the sheepmen went in the red in 1938.

A. C. Vincent

(Continued on page 34)

Reciprocal Trade Agreements

By S. W. McClure

*An Address Delivered at the 38th Annual Convention
of the Montana Wool Growers Association,
Butte, Montana, January 16-18, 1939*



S. W. McClure

ECONOMISTS who advocate free trade, or low tariffs, or reciprocal trade agreements point to Great Britain as the shining example of the success of that doctrine. Let us examine the facts.

In her free trade days Great Britain occupied a position peculiar to her alone. She was a small, thickly populated country, possessing vast territories producing raw materials. Her business was the conversion of raw materials into finished products to be sold back to her colonies and to the world. England imported her raw wool, converted it into cloth, reserved sufficient cloth for her own needs and sold enough abroad to about pay for the raw materials she had imported. She pursued this course with cotton, flax, wheat, metallic ores, hides and other so-called raw materials. She forgot that what she classed as raw material was the finished product of someone else.

In the early days Great Britain held the patents on most processing machinery and she deliberately prevented the exportation of such machinery. But the increasing production of raw materials abroad demanded development wherever they were produced. Nations exporting raw materials never grow rich. So Great Britain was called on to finance development throughout the world. She was forced to build railroads, highways, canals, public buildings, etc. All of her producing profits were invested in development in these raw material countries. Up to this point free trade was fairly successful

in Great Britain, but it could not last. Nations were not content to remain raw material producers. Year by year shops and factories grew in all of these raw material countries. The more these factories produced, the less Great Britain sold and the less of her debt she collected. Finally her foreign trade had to be conducted in keen competition with home industry and it was no longer profitable. At last when she tried to recover her loans, she found the outside world unable to pay. Even the United States repudiated loans made to her states for development purposes.

Great Britain's free trade experiment ended a dismal failure and she long since abandoned that policy, having a higher general tariff today than the United States. China was the only other important nation that ever practiced free trade, and it is now costing her her empire. Great Britain's free trade demanded a tremendous navy and brought her the enmity of the outside world—and finally, through no fault of hers, produced the World War.

War and Low Tariffs

There are those who contend that trade barriers cause international strife. It is also contended that reciprocal trade agreements tend to prevent war. I cannot believe that any such argument is made in good faith. With few exceptions the world's wars have been caused by trade—and this was true

even before the birth of Christ. Japan's attack on China is a trade war. China had among the very lowest of tariffs. Most of her tariffs were for revenue only. If low tariff means peace she should have been the last country invaded. The truth is that had she protected and developed home industries behind tariff walls, no nation would have dared attack her. Italy's conquest of Ethiopia was solely for her trade values. Germany is now running wildly over Europe in search of trade—and England and France have directed her towards Russia, and war must follow. The recent World War was a trade war. Here is what President Woodrow Wilson said about it in 1919: "This war in its inception was a commercial and industrial war."

Within the past few months Mexico has confiscated about one and one-half billion dollars' worth of our property. She has done this to get oil and other products to trade to Germany for merchandise. Had this occurred under any President previous to Coolidge, our troops would long since have torn down the Mexican flag over sufficient territory to appease us for the seizure. Senator Borah has said that world trade is a common cause of war. Jerome Frank—now a confidential adviser of President Roosevelt—states in his book: "The theory that world trade promotes peace is a delusion." When the United States entered the Civil War

our tariffs were the lowest for many years. When she entered the World War we were operating under the Wilson-Underwood low tariff which placed all so-called raw materials on the free list. Mr. Hull, our distinguished Secretary of State, had written much of this tariff—it ought to have been war proof. Back in the early days of the Republic Thomas Jefferson drove our commerce from the high seas to keep us out of Europe's trade war. Back in the low-tariff days of Grover Cleveland, Great Britain sent her navy to Venezuela to collect debts due for merchandise sold in that country.

None of these facts indicate that low tariffs and peace are twins. Someone has said that trade follows the flag; he should have said that war follows trade.

Treaties and the Constitution

When the Fathers wrote the Constitution in 1787, they understood this Nation could not live or prosper without a tariff levied on imports. This was not only for the purpose of raising badly needed revenue but more for the purpose of protecting home industry. So the Constitution provided in section 8 that the Congress shall have authority to regulate commerce with foreign nations and to raise and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises. It also provides that all bills for raising revenue must originate in the House of Representatives—it would not even trust the Senate of the United States to originate a tariff bill, let alone grant that power to a President. The powers to legislate were given solely to the Congress. The President had no legislative power except to approve or veto laws passed by the Congress, and even then the Constitution provided that such vetoed laws should go back to the Congress for its reconsideration. The Fathers were fearful of presidents—they had just escaped from the rule of a tyrannical dictator and took no chance on crowning a new one in this country.

During the campaign of 1932, the President promised that he would oppose reduction in agricultural tariffs. His promise seemed to take the tariff out of politics as far as agriculture was concerned. However, sometimes prom-

ises are forgotten after election. Mr. Hull had been made Secretary of State. I know him. He is a high-class southern gentleman, eminently honorable. He is one of the few remaining great men in America who believe in free raw materials although he does not now admit it. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee of the House, he opposed agricultural tariffs and voted against them at every opportunity. As a member of the United States Senate he voted against every agricultural tariff in the Smoot-Hawley tariff bill. As Secretary of State he must have convinced the President that our tariffs should be drastically reduced. These reciprocal trade agreements were brought forth as the manner and means of such reduction, although Congress was not told that a general reduction would be made. If reductions could be made in secret the producer would have no opportunity to oppose them, and the reductions could be large. Therefore his doctrine could be carried out in toto.

But when the reciprocal trade agreements were first thought up it was found that the Constitution stood squarely in the road, for that immortal document says in section 2: "The President shall have power, by and with the consent of the Senate, to make treaties, providing two thirds of the Senators present concur." In plain language such as you and I can understand, the Constitution prohibits the making of treaties with a foreign country unless such treaties are submitted to the Senate and approved by two thirds of its members. Note that not even a majority was considered safe for such a dangerous procedure. The keenest New Deal lawyers were put to work to find some way by which these trade treaties could be passed without submitting them to the Senate for ratification, but each and everyone of them came squarely up against the prohibition in our Constitution. What was to be done? There was just one thing to do and that was deliberately violate the Constitution of the United States by forcing the Congress to pass a law delegating authority to the President to make such treaties without submitting them to the Senate for its approval. In

other words the Congress knowingly violated its oath of office and gave the President authority to violate his when they gave him the power which the Fathers had expressly denied to him.

Well might Congress hang its head in shame, for it handed back to a ruler the very power, the right to tax, which we had taken from King George after seven bloody years of war. The Congress knows that its action was unconstitutional—every great lawyer in the Senate of both parties has admitted it. First, it explained that trade agreements were not treaties as defined in the Constitution. Then some member a little brighter than the average, happened to think that unless trade agreements were treaties, the President had no authority to even negotiate them with a foreign country. Convinced of its own delinquency, the Congress however justified its action by saying that an emergency existed which made it necessary for them to violate their oath of office and the Constitution of the United States. Poor, weak souls to talk about an emergency in the year 1934 in the richest nation in the world, even in a depression! The Fathers made no provisions for an emergency when they wrote the Constitution, for that document was written to meet just such emergencies as existed in 1934. They knew that no condition could ever prevail that was as grave—as fearful—as demoralizing, as the conditions prevailing in 1787 when they wrote this document. If the Congress can violate this provision of our Constitution, why not violate another provision and invest our President with full authority to declare war, which would relieve him of the necessity of quarantining a lot of nations?

Why These Treaties?

The original excuse given for reducing these tariffs was that the Smoot-Hawley law of 1930 had raised tariff rates enormously. This statement of course was never true. Chester H. Gray was then the Washington representative of the American Farm Bureau, which is now a New Deal appendage. Here is what he said about the Smoot-Hawley tariff: "It will be seen from the summary that the industrial

rate in the Act of 1930 has increased five and one-half points above the 1922 rate. The agricultural rate increased in the 1930 act eleven and one-half points above the 1922 rate."

The 1930 tariff was a farm tariff and that is the law now being attacked by these trade agreements. In my opinion it was the best tariff law Congress ever wrote. The public is told that our tariffs were too high in comparison to other world tariffs. The average rate collected on all United States imports last year was but 17 per cent of the value of the total imports. The average rate in the Argentine was 27 per cent; Brazil 25 per cent; Australia 25 per cent; France 37 per cent; Germany 29 per cent; Great Britain 26 per cent. The average rate of the 39 principal countries of the world was 24 per cent while our average tariff rate was only 17 per cent.

Fellow citizens, do you know that under the Smoot-Hawley Act over 64 per cent of our total imports came in free of all duties? No wonder American labor was unemployed and our farmers and stockmen lost their property by the mortgage route.

Mr. Hull tells us that unless we buy abroad we cannot sell abroad. Let us state the whole case: In the last five years, according to Geo. N. Peek, foreign trade adviser of this administration, foreign nations have had a net exchange balance against us of five billion eight hundred million dollars. In the calendar year of 1937, the last year for which we have a full report, we exported \$265,000,000 worth of merchandise more than we imported. But in that year we imported one billion six hundred million dollars' worth of gold and approximately one hundred million dollars' worth of silver, so foreign nations had a net exchange balance of nearly one and one half billion dollars against us. Did they apply this on the thirteen billion dollar debt they owe us? Did they buy our merchandise as Mr. Hull said they would? Did they do anything to contribute to our national prosperity, by reason of possessing a billion and a half of our dollars which we had borrowed from our taxpayers? No, they used the money to speculate in Wall Street and to maintain balances

that when withdrawn may bankrupt us.

We were told that these treaties must be made in secret by the State Department so there would be no "logrolling" and no delay which they claim characterizes Congressional legislation. Let us see how they work. The British treaty was announced in January, 1938. Hearings were granted in March of that year. The treaty was made public a few days after election when Jim Farley told them it would be safe to do so. The hearings were merely perfunctory and might as well have been abolished. We had ten months of logrolling and horse trading with the issuance every few days of misleading propaganda as to these treaties. In the meantime the American farmer was being sacrificed. This ten months of logrolling produced as bad a hangover as ten nights in a barroom. Your wool declined four to six cents per pound and your lamb pelts in proportion. For ten long months backroom trading off of American Agriculture was carried on.

Present Situation

Mr. Chairman, this reciprocal trade law was passed in 1934 and from that day to this we have had secret and unconstitutional tariff revisions and the end is not yet. Business and agriculture have been annoyed and pestered and prices forced below a normal level. Now that we are about to market another clip of wool, we have fairly accurate advice that treaties with Australia, New Zealand and probably Argentina are under consideration. These treaties will involve wool, meat, butter—as these are the countries that chiefly produce such commodities. Since every treaty we pass gives its rates not only to the country with which it is made but to all the world, except Germany, little now remains to be traded off except the commodities which I have mentioned. In every treaty we have traded off the world's best market for the world's slums. We have been beaten in every deal. Never in the history of any government has such cruel, inhuman political torture been prolonged. No wonder our nation is bankrupt and that a staggering relief army fights its way into every home.

Mr. Chairman, can it be that we have reached a point in our national

affairs where we can no longer trust those who seek high office? In his Baltimore speech before election the President pointed to that fireside over in the City of Washington and made this promise to our farmers and stockmen: "I know of no effective excessively high duties on farm products. I do not intend that such duties shall be lowered. To do so would be inconsistent with my entire farm program. The future of industry depends upon established markets for American-made goods among American farmers." How has that promise been kept? Beginning a year after election the following reductions have been made in agricultural rates: beef cattle from 3 cents per pound to 1½ cents, dairy cattle 3 cents to 1½ cents, cheese 7 cents to 4 cents, alfalfa seed 8 cents to 4 cents, clover seed 8 cents to 4 cents, sugar from 2 cents to .9 cents, cream from 56 cents per gallon to 28 cents, eggs from 10 cents to 5 cents, dressed poultry from 10 cents to 5 cents, rags from 24 cents to 12 cents, shoddy from 18 cents to 9 cents. These are only a few of the reductions. Under the law only a 50 per cent reduction can be made and the full reduction is now being made in many agricultural commodities.

Those responsible for these reductions say they have not greatly increased imports. Tell them for me that imports do not need to come in order to force down our prices. Before a dealer buys your wool he figures out the cost of importing wool and the result of that calculation shall be your price, provided he can figure long enough in advance to give you that price. Mr. Chairman, these trade agreements have cost our stockmen and farmers hundreds of millions of dollars and if the program is continued the loss will run into billions. We are getting concessions chiefly on things we do not export and are giving concessions on things we produce at home. Were it not for the fact that the world today is engaged in war and foreign countries need their surplus stocks, our markets would now be deluged with imports. But because of war, England, France, Japan, Italy, Russia and all of Europe are buying war materials instead of exporting to the United States. While that condition lasts the full ef-

fect of these treaties will not be felt.

The other day the administration bragged about our increasing exports to foreign countries. They failed to tell our people that 50 per cent of these exports consist of war materials sent to a world in arms. What does Japan want with nearly a million tons of our scrap iron? Maybe the bullets made from that iron were used to sink our merchant ships in Chinese waters. Our ships were there engaged in foreign trade.

Foreign Trade Not Important

But, Mr. Chairman, we are magnifying this foreign trade. It is a delusion. It always costs more than it is worth. Please remember that if you sell much abroad you must loan foreign countries the money with which to buy that which you sell. Please remember that the record proves that our exports are sold cheaper abroad than the same commodities are sold at home. This means that you and I who buy home commodities make up the loss on the part that was exported. If you are going to develop a foreign trade you must develop a great army and a great navy to protect and defend it just as has Great Britain and as we are about to do. The world owes us fifteen billion dollars loaned to buy our goods and we will never collect a penny of it. Within a month we have loaned China twenty-five million and Cuba fifty million dollars with which to buy our merchandise and not a penny will ever be collected. After twenty trade treaties were enacted this nation suffered the most rapid decrease in commodity prices ever recorded in a nine-month period. Under these treaties we have lost our share of the world cotton market and we are actually paying out of the treasury of the United States around 27 cents a bushel to anyone who will buy our wheat. We are now paying foreigners to buy from us.

Mr. Chairman, please recall that in 1929 we had a national income of eighty billion dollars. Last year it was only sixty billion dollars, after twenty treaties had been written. Our home trade is now twenty-five billion dollars below normal. Do you know that the entire export trade of the whole world

amounts to only twenty-five billion dollars? If we had it all and no other nation exported a penny's worth of goods, it would amount to less than the internal trade we have lost since 1930. In 1929 under a high tariff we had 16 per cent of the world's trade. Now with 20 trade agreements in operation our share of this trade has declined to less than 13 per cent. At best our foreign trade is only seven per cent of our national income and that has been handled at a loss and at tremendous expense to our government.

Why continue to dabble in the affairs of foreign nations, selling them goods below cost and then sending warships to collect for the goods? Of our imports more than 50 per cent can and should be produced at home. Take sugar. We import from Cuba and the Philippines about three million tons of sugar annually. At one and one-half ton of sugar per acre it would require two million acres of our best land to produce the sugar we import. If an American administration would look about, it would find use for our surplus and idle lands in producing the things we now buy abroad.

Let us cut out this foreign nonsense, stop trying to regiment our people, stop wasting the people's money, return to constitutional government and protect American markets, and the United States will soon return to its proud place as a leader of all nations in prosperity, peace and contentment. Let us repeal the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act.

Japan to Import More Sheep

IN line with plans designed to increase the number of sheep in Japan proper to 350,000 head, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has appropriated 1,300,000 yen (approximately \$345,000) for importation of a portion of this number during 1939, according to a report to the Department of Commerce by the office of the American Commercial Attache at Tokyo.

The project, which will be carried out along the same lines as a similar scheme which is now in operation in

Manchukuo, will extend over a period of six years, according to present plans, the report stated.

The plan reportedly calls for the importation of 8,000 ewes and 320 rams during 1939, for distribution to the various prefectures in Japan proper. It was also reported that the Agriculture Ministry is giving a subsidy of 50 yen per head for approximately 3,000 sheep to be imported by Prefectural Governments and wool producing organizations during the present year.

—Commercial Bulletin

Commodity Loans and Price Fixing

THERE is apprehension in the grain and cotton trades that the no-recourse feature of the crop loans may result in a minimum-price program and become the indirect means for outright price fixing," Secretary Wallace states in his report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1938. "Excessively large supplies and severe price declines, in the case of some commodities, have caused crop loans to operate as minimum-price guaranties. While this has been of great temporary benefit to producers, it would be unfortunate and would defeat the purpose of the crop-loan idea if price fixing were to become the major objective."

His statement continues:

Price fixing cannot solve problems that are rooted in an unbalanced adjustment between production and effective demand, and cannot succeed as a permanent policy. The use of commodity loans to avoid dumping on temporarily glutted markets has a stabilizing effect on prices. But the impoundment and storage over long periods of unusually excessive supplies of which there is more than a temporary surplus tends to emphasize their weight on the general price level and when carried beyond a certain point may contradict the principle of the ever-normal granary. When surpluses accumulate it is important to emphasize movement and marketing. This is accomplished best when the agencies of distribution are well established and, through world-wide contacts, are competitively alert to discover every possible source of demand.

Selling Wool Short

By C. J. FAWCETT, General Manager
National Wool Marketing Corporation

WOOL growers may be rudely awakened when they realize their wool is now being contracted for sale to manufacturers for June and July delivery from 62½ cents to 64 cents clean basis, when today's market value for the same type of wool is 68 to 70 cents clean, Boston. This represents a difference of 6 cents clean or 2 cents in the grease. The manufacturers purchasing these contracts are concerned with but one thing, and that is the assurance that they hold contracts obligating the seller to deliver to their mill for June and July consumption twelve-months' Texas or good original-

bag fine territory wool at these low values, approximately 2 cents in the grease below today's values. The question may logically be asked, how does the operator on the top futures market know he can obtain this type of wool from the grower at a price that will enable him to fulfill his contract with the manufacturer? The answer is, as he will tell you, that he does not know whether he will be able to buy the wool at such a price, but, because of having purchased on the top futures market a sufficient amount of top to balance his sales to the manufacturer, he is protected against a loss. He will

further tell you that if he has to pay the grower more for the wool, in order to fulfill his contract with the manufacturer, his top futures contract will be worth more. So he can not lose. This is the line of argument that is advanced by the relatively few operators on the top futures market. The damage to the market and to the grower's commodity, however, is already done.

This line of reasoning does not relieve the wool grower's mind. It is very evident that the manufacturer, being assured of his raw wool at such a low price, is going to sell his yarn and his cloth based on his low inventory cost. It is equally certain that no other manufacturer can pay more for his raw material and compete in the New York goods market. So in this way the market value of the 1939 wool clip is now being set by a few dealers and top-makers and others that may trade in the top futures market at prices approximately 2 cents in the grease less

Current Business Fair		ner, in cor at the cor
continued this intention, in manufacturers are 48 million and under- carry them Apparently, ool to buy nts. have been half-blood a little de- and some wools have while wool- and. on a very of the mar- r, although wrong. Even ity in the seems to be lawmakers	There is a pretty decent volume of business being reported this week, especially in the fine and half-blood territory wools, although not all houses have shared alike in the business, since the selection is getting well picked over and the stocks are much reduced in some houses. Good original bag wools of fairly good length are commanding 70 cents clean basis without difficulty and the less attractive wools of class IV order are costing 66@67 cents. There has been some clothing fine bright Ohio wool sold at a price which is said to figure about 67 cents for fair length wool of its type. Fine and half-blood clips of French combing length command about 67@68 cents, clean basis. Graded half-blood territory wools have been commanding 67@68 cents for decent wool without trouble.	Wool M Commer turing sit Bank say: operating unfilled o as a year clint to n March. I ness, has interest heavy-wei prices ar ment and have turn ies in all very mod dustry is of busine but the l secured b amount trade ag the tariff vised."

Above, a reproduction of the Commercial Bulletin's statement on February 11 of the cash market on Class III and Class IV wools; the former at 70 cents, clean, and the latter at 66 to 67 cents, clean. To the right is a reproduction of wool top futures quotations posted on Summer Street on the same day in which Class III wool is quoted as having a market value of 63 cents, clean, and Class IV, 60 cents, clean.

WOOL TOP FUTURES	
MAR	82 ¹
MAY	82 ¹
JUL	82 ¹
OCT	82 ¹
DEC	82 ¹
EQUIV. WOOL CLASS	
2	65
3	63
4	60
IMPORT POINT 85	
BERLING 487 ³⁴	
ANTWERP MAR	
ROUBAIX MAR	

than the present prevailing market and about 3 cents in the grease less than the foreign importing parity.

Wool Growers Produce the Wool and Take All the Risks, Futures Traders Set the Price

The word "top" is the term designating wool that has arrived at the first completed stage of worsted manufacture. The grease wool has been washed or scoured, carded, and combed, all of the fibers laid parallel into a snow-white rope of wool fibers which are subsequently reduced by nine operations to worsted yarn. The futures market, above referred to, does not deal in wool and does not deal in yarn or cloth, but entirely in wool tops, which is the first stage in the worsted process of manufacture. Trading on the Top Futures Market, a subsidiary of the Cotton Futures Market in New York, is not practiced to any extent by either growers or manufacturers. Growers could no more estimate the grease value of their wool clip by a comparison with the quoted market for tops, than an Iowa corn farmer could estimate the value of his corn crop by comparison with the price of Kellogg's Corn Flakes.

Recent testimony by prominent worsted manufacturers before a Senate investigating committee indicated that the operations of the Top Futures Market placed a tax on the manufacturing operations of 2½ per cent. Its proponents, however, admitted in the same Senate hearing that a grower would find it impractical, if not impossible, to intelligently protect the value of a clip of wool by hedging on the Top Futures Market.

The Old Ewe Pays the Bill

A careful analysis of the Top Futures Market discloses that the average quoted price on the Top Futures Exchange has averaged, during the seven years of its existence, about 9 cents per clean pound less than the quoted cash market on this same grade. In fact, some of the strongest proponents of the Top Futures Market frankly say they see no practical way by which growers can use this device for protecting the value of their wool clip.

To get an accurate idea of the influence exerted upon the market by top

futures quotations, we reproduce quotations posted on Summer Street as of February 11. Class III wool is quoted as having a market value of 63 cents clean; class IV is quoted as having a value of 60 cents clean.

We also reproduce the cash market, as quoted in the Commercial Bulletin published on the same date, which will be seen as 70 cents clean for class III wool and 66 to 67 cents clean for class IV wool. Here is a difference in quotations of 7 cents clean or about 2½ cents in the grease for similar wools on a given date. Additional proof of the cash market is found in the fact that at the same time the National Wool Marketing Corporation had unfilled orders on its books for substantial quantities of fine wool upon the basis of 70 cents clean for class III and 68 cents clean for class IV. This spread of 2 to 3 cents in the grease represents about the average amount by which top futures markets fall short of the actual cash price at which the wool is selling. So what is the market for wool today?

Wool growers take the risk of disease, drought, storms, predatory animals, and, greatest of all risks, uncertain market values for their commodities. Operators in top futures, the value of whose services to the industry is at least debatable, may be, and we believe they are, the means of bringing great loss to the growers, whose services are indispensable.

Ogden Show Awards

IN a wool show of 72 entries, W. S. Hansen of Collinston, Utah, was awarded the silver trophy for the grand champion fleece and Bell Bros. of Hagerman, Idaho, exhibited the reserve champion fleece, at the Ogden Livestock Show, February 7-14, 1939. Increased interest in this event is shown by the fact that the fleeces shown this year almost doubled those in the preceding year's show.

To Verl Anderson of Tremonton, Utah, went the grandchampionship award for the best individual fat lamb, a Southdown weighing 95 pounds, which was purchased by the Owyhee Hotel, Boise, Idaho, for \$120. The grand champion carload of fat lambs

(shown on page 19) was entered by Howard Vaughn of Dixon, California. They were Southdowns also, with an average weight of 78 pounds. The Hotel Utah of Salt Lake City bought these lambs at 17½ cents a pound.

In the Hampshire section of the sheep show, Matthews Bros. of Ovid, Idaho, took 7 first places, and three seconds, while their closest competitor, Andrus Bros. of Kamas, Utah, won the other first place and four seconds. S. P. Nielson & Sons of Nephi, Utah, took two first awards, three seconds, one third, one fourth and three fifths, in the Suffolk show. T. V. Tidwell, also of Nephi, Utah, showed Suffolks winning three first places and several lower prizes; Howard Vaughn of Dixon, California, had four first awards, two seconds and one third. A. C. Stewart of Abbotsford, British Columbia, took some of the Suffolk prize money, winning several second and third places. The Rambouillet division was principally a W. S. Hansen and John K. Madsen show, with Hansen taking four firsts, five seconds and five thirds, and Madsen, five firsts, four seconds, and one third.

Sid Etchegary, Armour Buyer, Killed

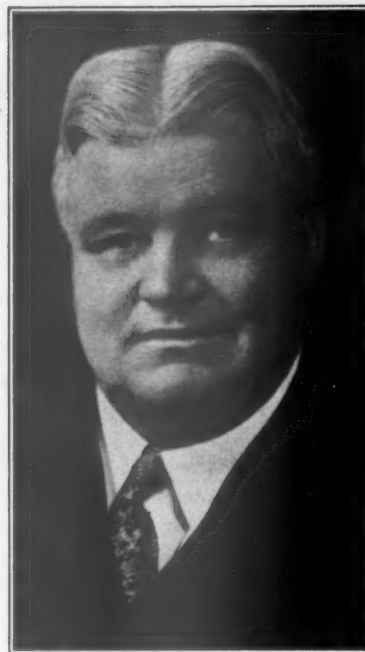
SEBASTIAN ETCHEGARAI, better known as Sid J. Etchegary, of Los Angeles, sheep buyer for Armour and Company, was killed on the Yellowstone highway near blackfoot, Idaho, on February 25, as the result of an automobile accident. The car which Mr. Etchegary was driving skidded, according to newspaper reports, and collided with a truck. Mr. Etchegary died at the hospital without regaining consciousness.

Through 25 years' association with members of the livestock industry, first as the representative of Chas. S. Hardy of San Diego, then with Hauser Packing Company and for the past three years with Armours, Mr. Etchegary built up a reputation for squareness in all his transactions. The loss created by his death is one that will be felt by the many friends he made in the western livestock industry.

The Senate Investigation Of Wool Marketing

By J. B. WILSON

*An Address before the 74th Annual Convention
of the National Wool Growers Association,
San Angelo, Texas, January 24-25-26, 1939*



J. B. Wilson

MR. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: I don't know why my friend, Fred Marshall, wished this particular job on me except he probably thought I was not working enough and wanted me to again read about 380 pages of testimony, some 30 or 40 of which are pertinent and the balance extraneous.

Most of you, of course, are familiar with the fact that a special Senate committee did investigate conditions in the wool trade. In order that you may have the proper perspective, I want to tell you just how this investigation came about.

Origin of Investigation

In 1935, in January as I recall it, Mr. Marshall, who was a member of the Wool and Mohair Advisory Committee, asked the committee for a list showing the amount of wool handled by each consignee, broken down into divisions of wool which they had purchased and expected to sell at a profit, free consignments and government consignments of wool and mohair. The Advisory Committee, in an unguarded moment, gave Mr. Marshall this information. It proved to be extremely interesting, so much so that we—I say "we," Mr. Marshall and I happened to be in

Washington at the time—thought it would be interesting to have the figures as of a later date. These figures showed that on the wools owned by the consignees, the dealers, they had sold 42 per cent; of the free consignments, which were more extensive than the wools they owned, they had sold 26 per cent, and on the government consignments, consignments from growers who were borrowing from government lending agencies, the sales were 27 per cent. Under the ruling of the Wool and Mohair Advisory Board these sales were to be made ratably. Mr. Marshall and I were unable to make our arithmetic correspond with the apparent arithmetic of not only the Wool and Advisory Committee but that of the data. We couldn't reconcile 42 and 26 as being right. And when Mr. Marshall asked for further information he was rather curtly refused. So we went to see a Senator and told him our troubles. We took the position, of course, that this was the growers' wool these fellows had and that any information regarding that wool should certainly be given to the growers. * * *

The Senator tried to get the information. Incidentally, he represented a great wool growing state, the wool growers of which had many millions of

pounds of wool under the wool and mohair advisory plan, and he failed to secure the information. He then suggested that if information regarding the growers' business and the growers' wool was so difficult to get, an investigation would be necessary and was warranted. Before introducing the resolution authorizing and directing the investigation by the special Senate committee, three Senators called upon the Governor of the Farm Credit Administration and suggested that the information requested should be public business and certainly should be given to the growers. Apparently they were unable to reach an agreement with the Farm Credit Administration and advised them that they proposed to make an investigation. It was quite agreeable to Governor Meyers, he had no objection, he said he rather welcomed an investigation.

As a result of that, the Senate made an appropriation for a special committee, appointed a special committee. Since the original appointment two changes have been made. Due to Senator Carey's defeat and death, Senator Frazier was placed on the committee, and due to Senator Steiwer's resignation Senator Walsh of Massachusetts was placed on the committee, so that

the committee now consists of Senator Alva Adams of Colorado, chairman, Senator James E. Murray of Montana, Carl A. Hatch of New Mexico, David I. Walsh of Massachusetts and Lynn J. Frazier of North Dakota.

They secured investigators—I say “they,” I mean the committee—from the Department of Agriculture, borrowing them, which is quite a common practice in Washington. When the funds of a committee are limited they frequently borrow auditors or investigators or accountants from other departments. And the investigators proceeded until some time last May, May, 1938, when hearings were held. These hearings are not completed but have been published up to date. During these hearings the investigators working for the Senate Committee, introduced much evidence, some of which seemed to us to be damaging. They were not able to make a complete investigation except of a comparatively small number of houses.

What the Investigation Shows

In these houses they did not find the same practices existing in one house as in another. The one practice they did find, however, that is of interest to you gentlemen, because in a period of 16 years 36.2 per cent of the wool marketed this country has been marketed on consignment. These figures of the investigating committee showed that with rare exceptions the price paid to the grower on consigned wools, taking the entire line of wools handled by the particular dealer, was always less, I say with a few exceptions was less, than the amount received for the wools which they purchased outright.

A number of reasons might be given for this. Dealers might properly urge they had always purchased the cream of the crop and that the wools sold on consignment were inferior wools, but when such a large percentage of wools was handled on consignment as was the case during the Wool and Mohair Advisory Committee days that particular excuse would not hold water.

A good many instances were found where the consignee had not, we thought, observed the spirit of the contract between the consignor and

consignee. The statements that I make, please understand, do not apply to all of the houses investigated. They apply to some of the houses but not to all of the houses. In each house they found a little different system. They found, for example, in some of the houses the consignee settled upon the basis, that is the dealer settled upon the basis of the shipping weights and in many cases it was found that he gained in weight on the wool as much as $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent, which apparently the dealer pocketed as extra profit on the transaction. They found that in many cases the grower was not given credit for his sacks. They found varying rates of commission, some growers were charged more commission than other growers. They found varying rates of interest, and they found something that I feel is inexcusable,—they found that the dealer's agents applied consignments of wool against a sale already made. In other words, your wool, had you been shipping wool, would have been sold before, in some cases, you even signed a consignment contract, before your wool had been shipped, without your knowledge or approval or consent.

No satisfactory explanation of this transaction has been made. It was stated, of course, in rebuttal that in this particular case the wool was sold on a clean basis, therefore until the wool arrived and the shrinkage could be agreed upon with the purchaser of the material, settlement could not be made. Of course, we readily can see that. But there was no reason in the world that the grower, who had not yet signed a consignment contract, should not have been told that the wool had been sold already at 70 cents clean and given an opportunity to throw his wool in that sort of deal or hold his wool for a later and better market. * * *

They found many other petty larceny practices,—I can think of no other name for it. For example, under the rules of the Wool and Mohair Advisory Committee, they were permitted to charge cartage. Some of the steamship companies delivered the wool to the warehouse; other warehouses have sidings at their warehouses so there is no charge for cartage, but in some of the houses where they had the wool de-

livered free there was still a charge for cartage against the grower. There was a charge of marine insurance at the full rate with a short rate cancellation, in spite of the fact that the consignee had a blanket policy at a much lower rate. It is practices of that kind that naturally make a grower somewhat suspicious. * * *

It is entirely too early to pass judgment. Judgment should not be passed on all houses until the investigation is completed, the evidence is all in, and the dealers complained against have had an opportunity to present rebuttal testimony; but I think enough evidence has been adduced, even if no evidence were presented on any other matter except the matter of the difference received by the selling agents for the wools they purchased and the wools they handled on consignment. What action the committee will take is any one's guess. I talked with the Chairman of the Committee, Senator Adams, probably two weeks ago. He said he expected to get the committee together just as soon as possible and hoped to resume hearings and complete them early during the present session of Congress. Of course, like every one else in Washington, they have to get a new appropriation before they can continue their hearings.

It has always been rather difficult for a good many growers, and I am one of them, to understand why there is so much secrecy about the wool business. The only place in the world there is any secrecy about the wool business is in the West. In Boston, as soon as a sale is made, everybody on the street knows it, knows who purchased it, about its shrinkage, where it came from; but we can't seem to get the information for the grower whose wool it is. When we consign livestock to the terminal market we receive an account sale showing the various classifications of the livestock, the cut backs, the ones that are condemned for one cause or another. The name of the purchaser in each case is given and a full and complete account sale is rendered. Try and get a full and complete account sale from a consignee when you consign wool! Certainly it is the grower's wool and he should be entitled to full and

complete information, including the shrinkage on the wool.

Fabric Legislation

I want to say just a word or two about the truth-in-fabric bills. The truth-in-fabric bills were reintroduced on the opening days of the session by Congressman Martin in the House, being House Bill No. 944 and by Senator Schwartz in the Senate, being Senate Bill No. 162. The bills are practically the same as the bill that passed the Senate at the last session and failed to be reported by the whole committee in the House. There is more support, I think, for this type of legislation than we have ever had before. Incidentally, it may be stated that every national farm organization, the National Federation of Women's Clubs, labor organizations, consumer organizations, pretty generally have endorsed these bills. Naturally, wool growers' associations generally have endorsed the bills. These bills are of far more importance than ever before because under the trade treaty with the United Kingdom they reduced the duty on rags 50 per cent. It took the wool growers 20 years, to my knowledge, and I think probably 50 years, to secure an adequate tariff duty on rags and now it is shaved down 50 per cent, which is the limit they can shave the duty under the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act.

Secretary Hull, when we were talking to him about the wool being affected in the pending trade treaty with the United Kingdom, told us we need have no fear, that they might shave it just a little bit off the top. I would hate to trust him to act as a barber and shave just a little bit off the top of my head when he considers 50 per cent just a little bit off the top. That really got us and got us hard, and it makes it more than ever necessary to secure the proper enactment of truth-in-fabric legislation.

I want to express the regrets of Mr. Curt E. Forstmann, whom many of you met last year up at Salt Lake, on account of his inability to be here. Mr. Forstmann had planned to be here but owing to some recent developments found it impossible to come. He really wanted to come. * * *

It is a real pleasure to be down here

OGDEN LIVESTOCK SHOW CHAMPIONS



Grand Champion carlot Southdown fat lambs, Ogden Livestock Show, February 7 to 14; exhibited by Howard Vaughn, Dixon, California; fed and fitted by Charles Stone, Dixon, California, and purchased by the Hotel Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, at 17½ cents a pound. The lambs were sold through the Merriam and Wilkins Sheep Commission Company. In the photograph left to right, Theodore Hollingshead, purchasing agent for the Hotel Utah, and Howard Vaughn, exhibitor, Dixon, California.

in Texas. You have not only the greatest sheep country in the world when it rains, and it always does, but you have the finest bunch of people I have ever met. I think I have more friends in Texas whom I value more highly than in any other state except my own state perhaps. Every one here is having a good time. As Secretary Marshall says, it seems to be more entertainment than program. I have talked entirely too long, but I do want you to know that all of us are extremely happy to be here and we are having a really good convention. I thank you.

Lamb and Wool Program Of Cedar City (Utah) Organization

WHAT can be done through efforts of local organizations to increase use of lamb and wool locally is to be

demonstrated by the Cedar City Live Stock Association.

This organization proposes, with frequent lamb and wool days, to arouse the sheepmen and other citizens to the desirability of building up a local market for the products of an industry on which their own and the welfare of the community depends.

Meetings have been held to organize procedure and the program was formally launched at a banquet on February 22 at Escalante, Utah, at which Vice President Pace and Secretary Hooper of the state wool growers' association were guest speakers.

The plan of the Cedar City Live Stock Association to boost lamb and wool is one which, if adopted by the numerous other units of sheepmen throughout the country, could not fail in producing worth-while results with a small cash outlay.

Public Domain Grazing Policies

Excerpts from an Address by Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes, before the Annual Convention of the American National Live Stock Association in San Francisco, February 16, 1939

The McCarran bill, S.571, to which Secretary Ickes expresses such definite opposition in this address, would, if enacted into law, give legal recognition to the advisory boards of the Taylor grazing districts and ensure their continuation regardless of the wishes of the officials of the Department of the Interior. It would also empower the boards to take administrative steps, subject to approval of the Secretary. Some livestock organizations have suggested amendment of the McCarran bill to provide for appeals to the courts from the rulings of the Secretary.

I HAVE come all the way across the continent in response to your gracious invitation because I wanted the pleasure of attending this meeting of the American National Livestock Association and talking to you face to face on two subjects, both of which are near to my heart—two subjects which, at first glance, may not seem to be related but which really are first cousins because they trace directly to a common ancestor, conservation. I refer to grazing and national parks.

I have referred to the condition of the range at the time that this important act (Taylor Grazing Act) was passed. The law of the survival of the fittest was practically the only law that had any force and effect in the public-range states. It was a case of "first come, first served." I do not say this critically but factually. We all know that what is everybody's business is nobody's business and it was nobody's business to bring order on the public domain, to see to it that more livestock were not put on the range than it was able to support. The man who saw his neighbor turn loose more cattle or sheep than could be supported could not be blamed if he in his turn tried to graze two head where there was only sufficient forage for one.

I have seen pictures showing what great areas of this public range used to look like before deterioration and what it looked like later. The first pictures showed lush grasses knee high or even waist high capable of nourishing and fattening a large number of cattle. Succeeding pictures disclosed a barren land eroded by water and wind into gullies. The topsoil had disappeared leaving in its place almost sterile subsoil which by

care in course of time might conceivably again grow grass for forage. In some sections cattle had been succeeded by sheep, sheep had been followed by goats, and the goats had left the land an arid waste.

One of the first instructions that I gave to the newly appointed Director of the Division of Grazing was that no favoritism was to be shown. I laid it down as the first principle that the little fellow must be as fully protected in his right as the bigger fellow; that all questions of doubt must be resolved in favor of the little fellow. I did not have a particle of sympathy for huge livestock companies that had been squeezing out the men with small herds; nor for the small operator who assumed that he was the owner, in fee simple, of land that was public property.

In operating under the Taylor Grazing Act we have had two objects in view which in a way contradict each other. On the one hand, we wanted to restore and maintain the range in order to increase its carrying capacity and, on the other hand, we wanted it to be possible for the stockmen to graze as many head as possible. It was here that we needed the cooperation of the stockmen, and to obtain it we set up the grazing advisory boards. In many cases it was hard for the stockmen to realize that their herds would have to be reduced in order to begin rebuilding the range, but, generally speaking, we have met with fine cooperation everywhere.

The income from grazing fees amounts, roughly, to \$1,000,000 annually. Twenty-five per cent of this sum

is returned to the grazing districts for range improvements. Fifty per cent of every dollar collected is returnable to the states in which the grazing districts are situated, to be expended as the state legislature may prescribe for the benefit of the county or counties in which the public lands are situated.

In some states the advisory boards expend this money. The advisory boards, however, are not authorized by law to perform executive functions. I sincerely hope that the advisory boards and the Department of the Interior will continue to work together in the closest possible harmony, and I deprecate the possibility of an issue arising, as it may well arise, if any state seeks to vest a federal advisory board with executive functions. The better plan would be for the state to return the portion of the fees apportioned to it to the Federal Treasury on the condition that they be used for the maintenance and improvement of the range in that particular state. It was the federal government which first conceived and adopted the policy of maintaining and building up the range, and I see no reason why any mistrust of the United States Government should be evidenced by any state.

The advisory boards are bodies set up voluntarily by the Secretary of the Interior and their function is implicit in the word "advisory." If I were asked whether I would favor granting administrative functions to the advisory boards, in all frankness I would have to answer "no." Executive functions cannot successfully be carried out by a board or group. This has been demonstrated time after time, and no one outside of politics ever tries to make such a fool set-up work.

Moreover, the administration of the Taylor Grazing Act relates to federal lands. To be sure, these lands are used for grazing purposes and stockmen have an interest in that use. However,

(Continued on page 39)

New Mexico's Annual Gathering

THE 36th annual convention of the New Mexico Wool Growers Association, held in the historic city of Santa Fe on February 9 and 10, coincided with heavy snowstorms over a large part of the state, but in spite of this, almost 300 sheepmen arrived at the La Fonda Hotel and turned the convention into one of the most interesting and successful gatherings of the association.

New Mexico stockmen are seriously concerned at this time with the rapid diminishing of the area of privately owned lands through purchases and regulation by the federal government and this problem was the basis of the major part of President Lee's annual report to the members of the wool growers' association. The situation, he said, was one which might easily forecast the end of the sheep industry in New Mexico unless the present trend is checked. Eighty per cent of Arizona's area is now under complete government ownership or control, Mr. Lee pointed out, and within a period of four years, the present program in New Mexico has cut privately owned lands on the tax rolls of the state to less than 40 per cent of its total area.

Special reference was made by Mr. Lee to the proposed extension of the Navajo Indian Reservation which would take in nearly one sixth of the total area of the state, and to the proposal of the federal government to appropriate a large part of the water conserved in the Bluewater Reservoir for the use of the Laguna Indians, which would throw into disuse a large area of range and farm land. This program of federal encroachment upon privately owned lands and the resultant reduction of the taxable area within the state, Mr. Lee held to be one of New Mexico's major problems and a very serious menace to the sheep industry.

In an endeavor to offset this evil, the association passed a resolution asking for reimbursement from the federal government for taxes lost through its purchase of privately owned lands in New Mexico.

President Lee also reported the an-

nual convention of the National Wool Growers Association and commended in special manner the work of the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

Governor John E. Miles, in a brief talk at the opening session, pledged his administration to economy in state government and assured the sheepmen that he would endeavor to maintain the proper functions and work of the state government without further increases in taxes or valuations.

The convention was particularly interested in the lamb cutting demonstration by M. O. Cullen of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. From its annual collections from the sheepmen of the state, the New Mexico Sheep Sanitary Board makes an annual contribution to the Meat Board for its work, the amount turned to the Board in 1938 being \$6,000, and the cutting demonstration was an illustration of one of the many methods used by the Meat Board to enlarge the outlet for lamb, its particular job being to show meat retailers how to get the most money out of the less demanded cuts of the forequarter.

"Home Rule under the Taylor Grazing Act" was the subject of an address by A. D. Brownfield, past president of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association, in which he discussed amendments to the Taylor Act (principally covered in Senator McCarran's bill S.571), which New Mexico stockmen feel are necessary to give stability to the range livestock industry; namely, provision for legal recognition of district advisory boards, and for the right of appeal to the courts from rulings either of the boards or of the Secretary of the Interior.

Secretary Marshall of the National Wool Growers Association told the New Mexico wool growers of the present situation in regard to reciprocal trade agreements and the activities of the National organization in that connection as well as in the Senate investigation of wool marketing, truth-in-fabric legislation and other matters, national in scope, affecting the industry.

Other interesting convention talks

were made by Frank Butcher, president of the Intermediate Credit Bank at Wichita; F. M. Simpson of Swift and Company; D. L. Mullendore, president of the Production Credit Corporation of Wichita; Tom Snell of the Sheep Sanitary Board; J. H. Mullis of Roswell and Charles Madrid of Las Cruces; Lee Kirby, Western Division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration; Geo. F. Ellis, extension animal husbandman of Las Cruces; G. R. Quesenberry of State College; Fred Sherman, president, Game Protective Association of Deming; R. H. Burns, senior marketing specialist of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C.

Floyd W. Lee was reelected president of the New Mexico Association; D. M. Martinez of Roy succeeded Jose Ortiz y Pino as vice president; and Miss Isabel Benson was continued as secretary. Albuquerque was selected as the convention city for 1940.

While the convention was characterized by its serious and practical consideration of problems affecting the sheep industry, the dinner dance on the 9th gave every one an opportunity to relax themselves to the fullest extent.

Convention Action

The lamb marketing committee presented a report similar to that adopted at the National Wool Growers' Convention, except that no recommendation was made to increase collections from lamb shipments from 25 to 75 cents per car for the work of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, the additional 50 cents to be used in a special lamb program, and a statement of protest was added to the action of the feeders' organization in 1938 in advising their members "to withhold their purchases of feeder lambs and by this action push the price below the market price."

The convention adopted in full the report of the wool marketing committee of the National Wool Growers Association and the forestry committee included in its report the resolutions on resettlement lands, national parks and wildlife as adopted by the National Association.

Other resolutions as adopted by the New Mexico Association:

Opposed levying of processing or excise tax on livestock or livestock products;

Opposed Argentine Sanitary Convention and any direct or indirect method which may be developed by treaty or agreement to permit importation of livestock from countries infected with foot-and-mouth disease;

Opposed further increase in governmental costs and urged reduction to lower the tax burden; further urged establishment of suitable method of assessing livestock and livestock lands with all other industries upon a unit operating basis;

Endorsed S.571, Senator McCarran's bill to amend the Taylor Grazing Act and authorized President of New Mexico Wool Growers Association to name representative on committee from western public land states to work for such amendments;

Recommended legislation requiring federal government to reimburse State of New

Mexico for taxes lost through federal purchase of privately owned lands;

Advocated repeal of Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act;

Opposed government ownership of railroads;

Requested cooperation of proper governmental officials in extermination of poisonous weeds and insects;

Opposed further extension of Indian reservations and development of water conservation and irrigation projects to bring under subjugation lands both on and off Indian reservations;

Asked state legislature to pass bill appropriating \$25,000 for each of the state fiscal years '28 and '29 for predatory animal work and requiring federal government to allot \$37,500 for each of said fiscal years; commended Biological Survey and urged appropriation for its work to be made in accordance with H.R. 9599 passed by Congress in 1931.

The Cattlemen's Convention

HUBBARD RUSSELL of Los Angeles was reelected president of the American National Live Stock Association at its 42nd annual convention in San Francisco, February 15 to 17, with the following vice presidents: J. Elmer Brock, Kaycee, Wyoming; Ezra K. Baer, Meeker, Colorado; Wm. B. Wright, Deeth, Nevada; C. J. Abbott, Hyannis, Nebraska; Jay Taylor, Amarillo, Texas, and A. D. Brownfield, Florida, New Mexico. F. E. Mollin continues as secretary-treasurer of the organization.

The cattlemen's convention, which preceded the opening of the Golden Gate International Exposition and the first of the livestock shows to be held on Treasure Island, that for beef cattle, presented an array of excellent speakers to a large audience of range cattlemen.

Of particular interest to sheepmen was the address of Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes, in which he declared his opposition to amending the Taylor Grazing Act as proposed by S.571, the bill introduced by Senator McCarran which would give legal recognition to the district advisory boards. The major part of Secretary Ickes' address on this subject is printed elsewhere in this issue of the Wool Grower.

Despite Secretary Ickes' statement, endorsement was given by the American National Live Stock Association

to S.571 and provision made for the appointment of a special committee to push its passage.

The cattlemen also advocated that no further tariff or trade agreements should become effective without the ratification of the Senate; endorsed the McCarran anti-theft bill and his bill 1099, which asks that 10 per cent of the national forest income be appropriated for general range improvements; opposed any modification of existing embargo applying to all countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists; opposed legislation tending to hamper distribution of agricultural products.

Stockmen were also urged to resist the tendency toward increased governmental expenditures and increases in taxation. They favored exemption from the hour provisions relating to overtime of the Fair Labor Standards Act in the production and processing of livestock and an amendment to the Wagner Act to provide that "those engaged in processing farm and ranch products, including stockyard employees, shall be required before striking or ordering a strike to submit their grievances to a board of mediation."

Recommendation is being made to state livestock sanitary officials that regulations governing interstate movement of livestock be unified and simplified and that Bureau of Animal In-

dustry regulations be accepted as standard for these regulations.

Endorsement was given to H.R. 3066, which would clarify and strengthen then the administrative provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

A resolution was adopted urging the Institute of American Meat Packers immediately to adopt a nation-wide advertising program.

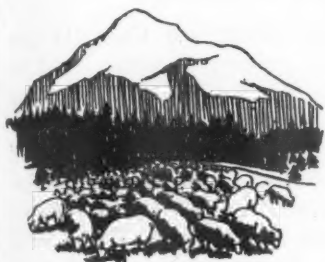
The Bureau of Animal Industry was urged to expand its work in developing the calf vaccination for Bang's disease and to refrain from pushing Bang's disease control programs until a proven method has been developed. The cattlemen also advocated that no attempt at any disease eradication be made as a control program "until it is economically desirable and practical and successful application is possible."

In transportation matters, resolutions were passed calling for:

Opposition to legislation that would repeal the long-and-short-haul provision of present law; enactment of S.1085 and H.R. 3400, which would empower the Interstate Commerce Commission to prescribe rates via routes which might short-haul certain carriers, inasmuch as carriers are transporting livestock and other commodities via unduly long and circuitous routes; inauguration of method of cost finding in various transportation agencies such as developed by former Co-ordinator Eastman, and that transportation charges be based on cost of performing the service plus a reasonable profit; favoring various consolidations of rail lines, pooling of facilities, elimination of many wastes as pointed out by former Co-ordinator Eastman, and asking repeal of motor carrier provisions governing certificates of convenience and necessity for common carriers, permits for contract carriers, and rates for common and contract carriers.

President Rich of the National Wool Growers Association spoke at the American National convention and other important speakers were: President Russell; Senator McCarran; Chester H. Gray, director of the National Highway Users Conference; John Holmes, president of Swift and Company; Orval W. Adams, past president of the American Bankers Association; President Hugh Baber of the California Cattlemen's Association; President George H. Davis of the United States Chamber of Commerce; R. H. Rutledge, and Drs. W. W. Robbins and Geo. H. Hart of the University of California.

National Wool Marketing Corporation



News Bulletin

Grower Owned and Operated



Wool Market Less Active But Believed Fundamentally Sound

THE present status of the wool market may aptly be described as between "hay and grass." Manufacturers are exerting strenuous efforts to complete orders for light weight goods to be delivered before Easter, if possible to do so. They apparently are covered on their raw wool requirements for the light weight orders now in the process of manufacture. While substantial orders are believed to have been taken for the heavy weight fall season, immediate attention is concentrated on orders to be delivered in the immediate future. It is stated on good authority that a larger volume of heavy weight orders might have been secured if a full line of samples had been available.

Very little trading has been done on Summer Street in grease wool in the last week of February. The lull in activity may be partially attributed to poor selection of wool available. The present condition, however, is perhaps the logical sequence of the animated market that has existed since Christmas. Stocks of wool in the hands of dealers and growers reported as of December 31, 1938, surprising as it may seem, were only about 3 per cent less than the same period in 1937. The stocks in the hands of woolen manufacturers, however, appeared to be about 8 per cent greater than December 31, 1937.

The present rate of consumption is quite heavy, averaging around 50,000,000 pounds of grease equivalent per month, and it is thought that sufficient orders are now booked to continue this rate of consumption at least for two or three months.

Competitive fibers to wool seem to be in a more enviable position at the moment. Reports dated March 1 from New York state that a buying wave is rolling over the New York textile center; that a rush of orders is being placed for cotton goods, silk and rayon, and, as a result, prices on all three raw commodities have advanced sharply in the last fortnight.

Foreign Market Steady with Good Clearances

Foreign markets remain very steady, with excellent clearances. The 1938 season opened September 1 with fine topmaking wool quoted at 21½ pence c.i.f. landed

in Boston. Sales have been regularly scheduled and offerings well taken. The surplus from the former season has been well liquidated, as the present clip and prices are still quoted at 21½ pence for the same quality of wool. Seldom, if ever, have we witnessed such a uniform market throughout the selling season which is now drawing to a close. To be sure more Australian wool is coming Americaward than one year ago, yet importations are approximately 50 per cent less than the average for the last fifteen years. It would seem that our domestic market will not be subject to sharp competition from Australian fine or medium wools. Medium wools seem to be in the strongest position the world over. Bidding was spirited at late sales of medium wool in New Zealand, prices against the buyer, about 100 per cent sales, and practically no withdrawals.

It is safe to assume that, due to unsatisfactory trade relations and limitations on American imports from Argentina, that country will retaliate by diverting a larger percentage of medium wools to Germany and the continent than otherwise would have been done. This seems to place domestic medium wools of quarter and ⅓ grade, particularly fleeces, in a strong position. There is practically no quarter-blood fleece wool of the old clip available for sale. It is very evident that the early shorn wools of this grade and quality will meet with ready demand at firm prices.

Textile Mills Sustain Heavy Losses in 1938

Recent financial reports of textile mills covering the year 1938 have been distressing indeed. It is estimated that the New England textile mills, both worsted and woolen, have lost between twenty-five and thirty million dollars in the 1938 season. Such gigantic losses are not conducive to optimism and a desire to acquire heavy inventories of raw wool. This is a factor that may well be reflected in the price of grease wool before the final chapter in marketing the 1939 wool clip has been recorded. It is quite certain that many mills will require immediate deliveries from the 1939 clip. It is equally certain that inventories for the most part will be held to a minimum, so long as so many uncertain factors remain in the offing. It is difficult to find anyone admitting satisfactory profits, from the grower of wool to the manufacturer thereof.

Contracting of New Clip Progressing at Moderate Rate

It is gratifying to note that at least some wool merchants have sufficient faith and courage to contract wool on the sheep's back and a reasonable amount of contracting has been done. Arizona wools of the valley type are now being shorn. There is usually about two to three million pounds of this type of wool available, which is now meeting with a ready market at values estimated to be 66 to 68 cents clean landed Boston. The grease price ranges about 19 to 21 cents, twenty cents net being the price taking the majority of the good clips.

Contracting has been done elsewhere—perhaps a greater volume in the Ely section of Nevada than any other. A number of clips have been contracted in western Colorado and Texas and a few in Utah. Twenty-one cents is the highest contract price reported. The prevailing price is 20 cents net to the grower. In some cases we understand the grower has the privilege at shearing time of making the 20 cents a sale or an advance. Contracts of unshorn wool also seem to be based on a 67-cent landed Boston value for fine wool. Sixty-eight to 70 cents is the spot market for similar wools in Boston today. The importing parity of Australian wools is about 70 to 72 cents clean.

The whole price structure seems to indicate a degree of market stability. This is further indicated by slightly advancing prices wherever new samples of manufactured woollens are displayed. It is estimated that contracts now

total approximately 5,000,000 pounds, which is not unusual for this time of year. In fact, it is considered very moderate.

Current Values in Boston

Current market values are well defined. Class III fine and fine medium original-bag territory is firmly held at 70 cents clean. Class IV of the shorter type has been selling readily at 68 cents clean, with Class V, the short, inferior grade of territory fine wool, moving at 65 cents. Half-blood has held a relatively strong position in the last two weeks. Considerable wool of this type was available and has moved at 68 cents clean, with shorter, less desirable type selling at around 64 to 66 cents. The $\frac{3}{8}$ grade has been neglected; it has been quoted at 60 to 62, but the higher figure has not been obtainable, for few outlets were found for this grade. Quarter-blood territory has not had a call equal to quarter-blood fleeces. While the quarter-blood territory wool has a higher spinning quality, the fleece wool has the fulling quality desired in hand-knitting yarns which seem to be so much in demand at the present time.

In order that these clean values may be more understandable, we are listing below the market values on the grease basis, as published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. It will be noted in this report that fine staple is quoted much higher than original bag. The quoted market on territory fine staple, however, is nominal, for little of this grade is now available or has been for weeks.

Domestic Wool Quotations—Week Ending March 3, 1939

GRADED TERRITORY WOOL (1)

	Boston Prices Scoured Basis	Grease Equivalents Based Upon Arbitrary Shrinkage Percentages (3)					
		Shrink. & Gr. Equiv.		Shrink. & Gr. Equiv.		Shrink. & Gr. Equiv.	
Fine Combing (Staple)	\$.73-.75	(63%)	\$.27-.28	(65%)	\$.26- —	(68%)	\$.23-.24
Fine French Combing	.70-.72	(64%)	.25-.26	(66%)	.24- —	(69%)	.22- —
Fine Clothing	.65-.67	(65%)	.23- —	(68%)	.21- —	(71%)	.19- —
$\frac{1}{2}$ Blood Combing (Staple)	.69-.71	(58%)	.29-.30	(60%)	.28- —	(64%)	.25-.26
$\frac{1}{2}$ Blood French Combing	.65-.68	(59%)	.27-.28	(61%)	.25-.27	(65%)	.23-.24
$\frac{1}{2}$ Blood Clothing	.62-.64	(60%)	.25-.26	(62%)	.24- —	(66%)	.21-.22
$\frac{3}{8}$ Blood Combing	.60-.62	(53%)	.28-.29	(55%)	.27-.28	(58%)	.25-.26
$\frac{3}{8}$ Blood Clothing	.57-.59	(54%)	.26-.27	(56%)	.25-.26	(59%)	.23-.24
$\frac{1}{4}$ Blood Combing	.56-.58	(50%)	.28-.29	(52%)	.27-.28	(55%)	.25-.26
Low $\frac{1}{4}$ Blood	.53-.55	(45%)	.29-.30	(47%)	.28-.29	(50%)	.27-.28
Common and Braid	.51-.53	(44%)	.29-.30	(46%)	.28-.29	(49%)	.26-.27

FINE TEXAS WOOLS (2) (Original Bags)

	Boston Prices Scoured Basis	Grease Equivalents Based Upon Arbitrary Shrinkage Percentages (3)					
		Shrink. & Gr. Equiv.		Shrink. & Gr. Equiv.		Shrink. & Gr. Equiv.	
Combing (12 Months)	\$.69-.73	(58%)	\$.29-.31	(63%)	\$.26-.27	(68%)	\$.22-.23
French Combing (8 Months)	.62-.64	(56%)	.27-.28	(59%)	.25-.26	(62%)	.24- —
Clothing (Fall)	.55-.56	(56%)	.24-.25	(59%)	.23- —	(61%)	.21-.22

(1) Wools grown under range conditions in the range areas of Washington, Oregon, the Intermountain States, including Arizona and New Mexico, and in the range areas of the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Territory wools cover a wide range in shrinkage and in color.

(2) Wools grown under range conditions in the range areas of Texas. They are mostly bright in color and moderate in shrinkage, except in the Panhandle District, where they are considerably darker in color and heavier in shrinkage.

(3) In order to present scoured basis prices in terms of greasy wools, scoured basis market prices have been converted to grease basis equivalents. Conversions have been made for various shrinkages representative of light, average, and heavy shrinking wools of the different length groups quoted.

With the Women's Auxiliaries

UTAH Salt Lake City

An interesting talk on pioneer antiques given by Mrs. William Reid was the feature of the February meeting of the Salt Lake Chapter to the Utah Wool Growers. It was an interesting tale of curious happenings and eccentric people. She also displayed some of her relics accumulated over a period of years. Music for the afternoon was furnished by a piano trio, Zorah Jepson, Alta Cassity, and Virginia Bradford.

A nominating committee was chosen, a three-minute talk on parliamentary procedure given by Mrs. Urien, and reports from the treasurer and Council of Federated Clubs were heard.

A buffet luncheon was served prior to the business meeting.

Since our last report of our radio work, four broadcasts have been given and it might be interesting to give a brief resume here of what has been given each time.

On January 12 we featured a talk by Miss Lila Canavan, assistant professor of home economics at the University of Utah, whose subject was "Do you Know Your Meats?" She talked for nearly eight minutes, instructing the housewives on what to look for in buying meats.

For our second January program the guest speaker was Miss Kallie Foutz of the Paris Company, a girl who has received much publicity through winning the "Ugly Duckling" contest. Miss Foutz was interviewed regarding fashion and later on in the program she gave a fashion chat featuring new spring woolens. Closing the program was a short talk on how to prepare crown roast of lamb.

For our first broadcast in February we featured an interview with Mr. William Woods, a man who has been associated with the meat business of Salt Lake City for over sixty years. He told of the many changes that have taken place in the meat business during that time and how meat and

Material for this department should be sent to the National Press Correspondent, Mrs. Emory C. Smith, 1636 Princeton Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah.

methods of handling meat have greatly improved. One of our members gave an interesting lamb recipe as the favorite recipe of the week.

The February 23 program again featured wool. We were fortunate in getting the fashion counselor from the Z. C. M. I. to give a talk on the use of wool in the new spring fashions, describing several smart wool ensembles for various occasions.

On March 9, which is the date of our next broadcast, we are featuring the use of wool in the home, having as our guest speaker, a well-known interior decorator who will tell our listeners how they may use wool to advantage in draperies, trimmings, furniture coverings, etc. A favorite lamb recipe will also be given.

Miss Josephine Smith, Secretary

WASHINGTON Yakima

Going into her subject in a thorough and interesting manner, Mrs. Leonard Longmire told of the numerous uses of wool pelts and of lamb at the regular monthly meeting of the Yakima chapter in January, held at the home of Mrs. Paul Lauzier. Assisting Mrs. Lauzier with the luncheon which preceded the program, were Mrs. Pete Reynaud and Mrs. James Morrow.

Mrs. Longmire was announced as the winner of an award for bringing more new members into the auxiliary than any other woman in the state. The award was offered by Mrs. Rollo Jackson, a past state president.

The chapter's fifteenth anniversary was celebrated in fitting style at a luncheon held at the Donnelly Hotel, February 17. An attractive centerpiece, wool flowers, and red carnations for each guest were enjoyed. Honored guests were past presidents, Mrs. W. A.

Roberts, Mrs. Archie Prior, Mrs. William Wilson, Mrs. Oscar Dillon, Mrs. James Morrow, Mrs. H. F. Roberts, Mrs. E. K. Foltz, and Mrs. William Watt.

The program featured reports by Mrs. Clyde Storey, state president of the national convention and a talk by Mrs. W. A. Roberts on the Carlsbad caverns. Music was furnished by Mrs. Rollo Jackson of Goldendale and Mrs. George R. Jackson of Yakima.

Mrs. Neil Robertson
Corresponding Secretary

OREGON Malheur County

The Malheur County Wool Growers Auxiliary has been endeavoring during the past few months, and shall continue during the coming months, to use and make more articles of wool and promote the use of lamb in the diet. With this in mind, we sold chances on a blanket, the proceeds to go to the State Auxiliary, in December. In February the chapter put together and tied a wool quilt for a needy family.

Socially, the auxiliary "went to town" with a dancing party in honor of the husbands and friends of members, held in the Odd Fellow's Hall on January 19, 1939. As a special attraction pupils from Miss Miller's dancing class were presented in a group of dances. A delicious supper was served at twelve midnight. This party proved to be such a success that we intend making it an annual affair.

The President's report of her trip to the State Convention held at Pendleton was heard at the February meeting.

The March meeting is expected to be an interesting one, each member being requested to come "garbed" as a sheep herder. The meeting will be at the home of Mrs. T. R. Chambers.

Mrs. Roy J. Smith
Corresponding Secretary

Baker County

Wool and lamb promotion got off to a flying start at the February meeting of the Baker County Auxiliary. A committee was appointed to write the woolen mills for mill ends. These are to be finished in different ways to have on hand for sale at all times.

It was agreed to promote the fat lamb shows and the 4-H Club conference. A committee was appointed to contact the home economics teachers about a woolen dress contest to be given by that department with prizes to be offered by the auxiliary.

A lovely luncheon was served by Mrs. A. S. Boyd, at whose home the meeting took place, ably assisted by Mrs. Phil Fortner.

Reports were given on the state convention.

The dance was postponed until March.

Miss Minnie Mours will be hostess to the auxiliary on March 1.

Grace Spence
Corresponding Secretary

Umatilla County No. 4

It was with regret that the resignation of Mrs. W. Percy Folsom was accepted at the January meeting of the Umatilla Chapter. Mrs. George W. Rugg was elected to finish her unexpired term as president. Observance was made of the birthdays of the president and six other members. A musical program was enjoyed and a home lighting demonstration was given during the afternoon.

Mrs. W. R. Wyrick
Corresponding Secretary

Morrow County

Election of officers was held at the January meeting of the Morrow County Auxiliary. Mrs. Harold A. Cohn was made president with the following aids: Mrs. Frank E. Parker, vice president; Mrs. C. W. McNamer, secretary; Mrs. Frank Wilkinson, treasurer; Josephine Mahoney, corresponding secretary.

A report on Christmas relief was given by Mrs. E. R. Schaffer. She was assisted on this committee by Mrs. Phillip W. Mahoney.

A brief account of civic work done by the auxiliary during 1938 was given by Mrs. Cohn. Included in this work was one 4-H membership, \$12; \$5 to the infantile paralysis fund; \$25 to the municipal swimming pool; \$5 to the Red Cross; \$5 to Christmas relief.

Mrs. W. P. Mahoney, who was at that time national president, told of her work in Idaho, stating that, while Boise has no active organization, the wives of the sheepmen raised \$40 for the expenses of the national convention.

Following the January business meeting a White Elephant Party was held amid much merriment.

Reports of the state convention and of the national convention held the spotlight at the February meeting, with Mrs. Harold A. Cohn, local president, giving a detailed report of the state convention to which she was a delegate. She described the attractive window display from this county and commended Pendleton on being the perfect host. Mrs. Ralph I. Thompson, state president and delegate to the national convention, gave an interesting account of her trip. She returned home full of new ideas and stated Oregon had an enviable record in work, especially its 4-H Club projects.

It was decided to hold a food sale February 11 at the Pacific Power and Light Company office. On this committee are Mesdames J. G. Barratt, Ray. P. Kinne, William Bennett, B. C. Pickney.

It was announced that R. A. Thompson had donated a dividend check for \$23.24 to the auxiliary.

A discussion was held relative to having a meat cutting demonstration and locker canning instruction in April instead of the regular style show.

Two new members were added to the club roster this month.

Josephine Mahoney
Corresponding Secretary

A Tribute

TO Mrs. R. A. Jackson, Past President, Washington State Auxiliary.

It was with reluctance and regret that the Washington Auxiliary accepted the resignation of Mrs. R. A. Jackson,

state president during 1938. Mrs. Jackson's ill health was responsible for her loss to us as president. But we hope that soon she may be fully restored, and grace our activities with her genial presence.

Mrs. Jackson, during her term of office, had endeared herself to all members of the auxiliaries, just as she had endeared herself to her own Klickitat County Auxiliary, of which she was first president.

During her term there Mrs. Jackson was instrumental in building an auxiliary whose social and constructive influences were far flung.

To Mrs. Jackson goes the credit of creating in the various auxiliaries an enthusiasm for knitting which bore bountiful and varied fruit at convention time, when the ladies from all parts came clad in beautiful woolen garments of their own fashioning.

If "example is better than precept," Mrs. Jackson certainly has fulfilled the old adage, for she has created garments of great beauty ranging from durable day garments of all types to an evening gown fashioned of sheerest pink yarn—a poem in shell pink wool, describes it; its beauty enhanced by a foundation of silvery material.

Here she has, we think, uncovered a vast field of possibilities for the uses of yarn, showing that it can be used for garments for every occasion.

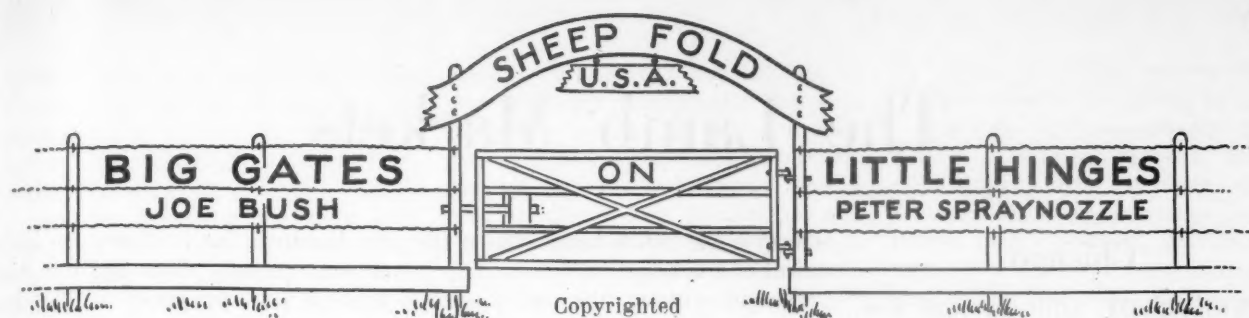
Her interest and ingenuity spread to woolen toys, knitted and crocheted, again uncovering a field of possibilities and a source of financial gain for the auxiliaries through the sale of such toys.

Mrs. Jackson specialized in dogs and dolls—beautiful cuddly dogs in crochet, and real looking dolls knitted with coats and all; complete even to hair.

The toys are pure wool and stuffed with 100 per cent pure wool.

A large number were made by Mrs. Jackson, herself, and she was generous in her help to others, with the result that enthusiasm soon spread to the other auxiliaries. The Lower Valley Auxiliary, started by Mrs. Jackson during her term of office and now a "lusty child" as its president, Mrs. H. Anderson, described it at the conven-

(Continued on page 33)



HOWDY, folks! Vell here we are in the middle of March vid the sun shining on both sides of the Big Gate on Little Hinges. A few of our most optimistic Sheepfold neighbors are making arrangements for a late March lambing. Vell, maybe it's like Joe Bush says, preparation und perspiration lead to position und he who wants to ship the first car of lambs has got to, in order to win position, be the first to lamb.

Joe Bush says when a feller has reached the end of his rope, it's a good idea to tie a knot in the end und hang on. As government figgers indicate, there may be 30 odd million people on relief, but that still leaves nearly a hundred million Americans hanging on to the end of the rope. Und whatever the plans of the government are they must not overlook those who must earn the money to pay the bill.

The right kind of an American, he may be 17 or 70, has that feeling of eternity that is of youth that makes amends for everything. If it were not for the struggle in the wool business, everyone would struggle to get into it. It's the difficulties that men overcome that show men for what they are. I believe vid all my heart und soul und mind in my country, und while the President may not always be right, he is my President until my fellow citizens elect another.

In hard times, in a depression or a recession, the first one to lose out is the efficiency expert vid a college education who is too heady, too proud, too self-sufficient to team up vid common sense. What farm und ranch advisers need is not more und better filing systems, but bigger waste baskets. We struggle und fight for our existence, but find our happiness in the flowers of friendship that bloom along life's highway, fertilized by the things we give.

Joe Bush says any boss man, including the President of the United States, has made mistakes und he'll make more. The man who makes no mistakes lacks boldness, courage, und the spirit of adventure. For him life has no thrills und posterity will build for him no monuments. Getting ahead is fine, if it don't mean getting a big head. Joe Bush says fifty years from now chances are people will be proud to belong to the sons und daughters of the relief rollers.

The tragedy of the depression is not in a heavy tax

burden or an unbalanced budget, but in the stumbling block an upset industrial system has thrown in the pathway of the youth, the workers of America. Every hour, day, week, month, year that they spend in enforced idleness is time lost to the present generation of youth—lost forever—and all the gold in all the balanced budgets cannot buy back for them one split part of a lost second of time.

Did Washington leave a balanced budget? Did Lincoln? I wouldn't know about that. I never inquired. But I do know that Washington left us a government wherein under God man could have all the liberty, the freedom, the glorious independence that a free people can enjoy. Lincoln preserved that nation, held it together as a union of states, and because of what Washington und Lincoln did, each in his turn, each in his own time in his own way, America has written their names not only in perishable marble but has written them deep in the hearts of each succeeding generation of Americans to live as long as the flag that America in love und reverence has given that lovable nickname, "Old Glory."

Joe Bush says man worries a lot about the things he wants to do but can't. Maybe he wouldn't have so much to worry about if he would do what he could but don't. In a country where the lowest priced car runs around the cars in the higher brackets, there need not be much fear of communism.

In the heart as in the hand of all real Americans there is room for only one flag—Old Glory—your flag und mine. What you see when you look at the flag, I don't know, but as for me

I see the white of the sego lily, und the red of the roses too
In a sky as blue as the violets, little stars are shining through.
There's a star up there for your state, there's a star up there for mine
Und the glory of their cluster is God's glory from the sky.
When I look across the valley to the school house on the hill
Und see Old Glory flying, or maybe just hanging still,
Seems like I've had a vision of "when Thy kingdom come"
Und "on earth as 'tis in heaven, only God's will, will be done";
Und He comes to take us over, und we hear Him say "'tis well,"
God will leave Old Glory flying on the school house on the hill.

Joe Bush says God may not be overly impressed vid Old Glory on the flagship of a fleet, or in the hands of a color sergeant at the head of a regiment, but over a school house that's different.

Peter Spraynozzle

The Lamb Markets

Chicago

EVERYBODY affiliated with live mutton trade is wheezing except the feeder. Reflecting on the grief he encountered at the corresponding period of 1937, his camp is reasonably contented with profits of \$1 to \$1.50 per head for which low cost gains are responsible. So satisfied are feeders with price conditions that they are running into excessive weight, incidentally courting killers' wrath. Not only are killers wrestling with a large percentage of 98 to 105-pound lambs, but apprehension of an overdose of weight during the tail end of the fed season disturbs their slumber. However, a big lamb is better than no lamb at all, and they buy the crop, paring close to top prices in occasional emergencies, then penalizing weight 25 to 50 cents when they are not under the necessity of buying for numbers, insisting however that 85 to 90-pound lambs are worth 50 to 75 cents per hundredweight more than when hefting 100 to 105 pounds.

The lamb market is as repetitious as a stop-and-go light, off one day, on again the next. At that, it exhibits more stability than trade in the other species. When buyers succeed in taking off 25 cents per hundredweight, they call it a day; putting the same two bits back is the logical sequence. This keeps the market on a roulette basis, black at one turn of the wheel, red the next. When the bulk of a one-day supply realizes \$9 to \$9.25, contentment is assured; advance it to \$9.25 to \$9.50 and a roar is emitted by the purchasing side; and when a \$8.75 to \$9 trading basis is established, the feeder yelps. A winter market with daily swings of 25 cents keeps the commodity moving. During February \$9.50 was out on the limb; on the low day, \$8.90 was the summit. Few lambs sold under \$8.75, no considerable number over \$9.25. On the high day \$9.25 was paid for 100-pound and \$9.50 for 98-pound stock in a pinch,

of course the pinch being due to the arrival of a few eastern orders.

Feeders criticize the heavy lamb buying policy. They would put a premium on handyweights, contending, not illogically, that if choice 85 to 88-pound stock is worth six bits more than 98 to 105-pounders, they should be rewarded to that extent. Not getting the premium, they put on weight especially as it is cheap, gain costing $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 cents per pound. The feed factor enters largely into the weight problem, although breeding is not to be ignored. Woolled lambs weighing 100 to 113 pounds have reported this season; shorn stock 98 to 100 pounds.

No \$10 lambs have reported and none are expected, at least at this writing. At \$9 to \$9.25 on the hoof, the dressed market absorbs the product, no accumulation having been reported. This spread takes all weights in the fleece. Prices of shorn stock vary according to length of wool, \$8 to \$8.65

per hundred; but in theory the spread between recently shorn and full fleece lambs is \$1.25 per hundred. The sheep market has crawled up from the early low spot, Texas fed wethers making \$5.50, fed western ewes, \$4.50 to \$5.00.

Consensus of opinion is that the market will hold around present levels until mid-April. By that time Colorado and Nebraska feed lots will be depleted; already that condition exists east of the Missouri River, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin having cashed the bulk. Indiana, which sneaked some northwestern lambs in after the turn of the year, will last longer, but Ohio has taken the market right along and not enough lambs are concealed in Michigan to fill a one-seated buggy. This puts feeders in the trans-Missouri area in practical control of the bulk of visible supply, a few isolated spots reporting a modicum, but not a price-disturbing residue.

During the balance of the winter season handyweight lambs will be ab-

Comparative Prices Live and Dressed Sheep and Lambs

CHICAGO AVERAGE LIVE LAMB PRICES

Week Ended:	Feb. 25, 1939	Feb. 18, 1939	Feb. 26, 1938
Lambs:			
Choice ¹	\$ 9.08	\$ 9.16	\$ 8.20
Good and Choice	8.78	8.91	7.72
Medium and Good	7.90	7.94	7.08
Common	6.72	6.72	6.38
Ewes:			
Good and Choice	4.60	4.72	4.28
Common and Medium	3.42	3.42	3.15

NEW YORK AVERAGE WESTERN DRESSED LAMB PRICES

Choice—38 lbs. down	\$17.50	\$18.50	\$16.70
Good—38 lbs. down	17.00	17.60	15.90
Medium—All weights	15.50	16.00	15.05
Common—All weights	14.00	14.50	13.90

¹Closely Sorted

normally scarce as at present prices weight is profitable, selling short of poundage the reverse. During February a large percentage of Chicago receipts weighed 95 to 100 pounds, with a generous sprinkling above the century line. Obviously consumers must take weight or eat something else. Killers are charting new cutting courses to meet the emergency, especially in the matter of whittling down legs to popular size by the simple process of increasing chop cuttage.

"We are up against a stone wall in the matter of weight," said a mutton man. "An increasing percentage of 95 to 105-pound lambs creates a difficult distribution problem. Breeders have every incentive to grow the largest lamb possible; feeders to put on the last pound when it means a profit. This year with all kinds of feed actually cheap and necessity for putting weight into the feed lot, they have gone the limit. We cannot sell an 8-pound leg of lamb to the average customer, consequently it is up to us to use the knife. The Southdown makes an ideal carcass, but we are not moving in that direction. Breeding a big lamb costs no more than a smaller type, and the added weight means profit. When a farmer goes to growing lambs, and more of them are at it each year, he uses the largest ram available."

The big lamb, however, is a winter problem, aggravated by feed plenitude, and nothing on the horizon except an always possible drought suggests higher feed cost. A corn surplus is gradually developing that cannot be avoided unless Nature goes on a different tangent. The corn reduction plan, rather than curtailing feed and advancing prices, has exerted an influence actually the reverse, other factors entering into and aggravating the problem. Inequitable corn acreage allotments expanded the cultivated area last year, Nature did the rest. Less corn is going into the silo as grain sorghums, alfalfa and other roughage mixed with molasses are substituted, and despite cheap corn, the patent feed manufacturers are doing a thriving business, cottonseed, molasses and corn sugar entering largely into their processes. Tapioca is displacing corn in starch production, dry milling of corn for human

food is diminishing, and the use of that grain for fermentation purposes is steadily contracting. On a smaller scale, the cotton consumption problem may be duplicated with corn. Several uses of hybrid corn fertilization and cultivation have increased yields to an extent not generally understood. The soil conservation program is developing an expanding grass area available for making cheap gains with livestock. All this insures western lamb breeders broader outlets for feeding stock as coarse grains and roughage cannot be converted into cash commodities without livestock. Hogs do not utilize roughage, and both actual and potential supply of stock cattle is at low ebb. Consequently every scrap of handwriting on the wall suggests increasing demand for western-bred lambs, regardless of whether they originate in Texas or the Northwest. Assuming that the 1938 corn crop repeats this year, and it is reasonable, 40-cent corn will be doubtful. As in the case of cotton, European demand is at low ebb. Argentine competition is keen. Not long since scientists predicted that processing would absorb an increasing portion of the corn crop. The reverse has happened. Regulation of livestock production through the corn crib proves to be an iridescent dream.

The dressed market, although somewhat erratic, is fairly healthy. At the Atlantic seaboard, anywhere from 16 to 18 cents per pound represents carcass wholesale cost, the bulk selling at 16½ to 17 cents. These prices put lamb in strong, strategic position, especially since pork advanced 2 cents per pound wholesale, and beef is so costly that a considerable percentage of consumers is unable to buy it. Measured by consumer purchasing capacity, or disposition, all meats are high whether acquired over the retailers' counter or on a public eating house table. Taxes of various types have increased distribution cost until protest is audible. Consumers are meeting the emergency by reducing the size of the package they buy; retailers and restaurateurs are using the knife ingeniously. Old cutting plans have joined the horse and buggy; other and cheaper foods are being substituted

for meats. Dieticians responsible for "meatless meals" are having an inning.

New crop lambs are already on the market in limited numbers, but the main column will be along shortly. Seasonal uncertainty envelops the California supply prospect, packers making no preliminary passes at contracting that crop. Tennessee, Kentucky and adjacent territory have a generous supply at the development stage, the corn belt states are sheep conscious. Enthusiasts are sounding their "raise more lamb" slogan in stentorian manner, and enlisting farm youth in the move. Chicago is to be the scene of a lamb production campaign during the coming summer, the initiative having been taken all over the hinterland. All this energy centers on production rather than consumption. "Regardless of what develops, there will be enough lamb to go around," remarked a processor.

Present indications are that February lamb prices will be duplicated in March, that an occasional spurt may develop later, and that the high spots, if any, will develop in April, depending on California physical conditions. New York shipping demand is a stout prop under the price list; without it live lambs would have sold 50 to 75 cents lower since the turn of the year. An invariable rule is that in any session when shippers are in the market prices rule 15 to 25 cents per hundred higher than when local demand is the determining factor, and at this writing

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eastern feed lots are not a serious competitive factor.

J. E. Poole

Kansas City

LAMB prices in February covered the narrowest range of any month thus far during the winter feeding season. On the February close the top price paid, \$8.95, was 5 cents under the January close and 10 cents above the December close. However, the even price range was the factor that established a higher average for February than for January, though the top in each month was the same.

February started with an advance that brought the top of \$9.15 in the first two days. After that none sold above \$9, and on one day \$8.65 was the low point. On most of the other market days, ruling top prices were \$8.75 to \$8.90. Actual fluctuations covered a 25 to 35-cent range. An even demand, well-distributed supplies among the various markets, and a willingness among the buying side here to support the market accounted for the stable price levels. Considerable new demand came from southeastern sections. This was in sufficient volume to indicate that industrial sections in some cotton states are beginning to build up a fairly good demand for ovine meat.

Compared with February last year, lambs averaged around 75 cents higher. The extreme top this year, \$9.15, compared with \$8.35 last year, but most of the lambs in the second month last year sold under \$8. Evidently fat lambs are making a fairly good profit. Lots of weight, representing good economical gains in feed lots, has been in evidence in all the offerings. Only in a few cases, where averages were well above the 100-pound mark, has there been any price discrimination. Another favorable factor here was that little or no sorting has been done and most car lots went over the scales straight.

At the beginning of March practically the entire supply of wheat-field lambs had been marketed and only a few remain in feed lots in either Kansas or Missouri. Colorado and Nebraska have about the same numbers as at this time last year, but this supply has a six-weeks' marketing period before

new crop lambs from any section will begin to be a supply factor. The trade hold the opinion that the market will maintain a firm tone during March. The publicity campaign on behalf of dressed lamb, which is well under way, will be a favorable factor and if the wool market firms up a little March prices should be on the upgrade.

There are a good many heavyweight lambs in sight and should the weather turn warm shearing operations will get under way, but in relation to total supply the number shorn will be small.

Sheep prices closed February slightly under the January close, but throughout the entire month they had maintained a good margin over February, 1938. At the high point ewes brought \$4.85 and yearlings \$8, and on the close best ewes sold at \$4.50 and yearlings \$7.50. The aggregate supply of mature mutton classes was not large. In the average winter sheep prices have been high enough to return feeders a moderate profit.

Feeder trade was limited during the entire period because of the small supply available. Most of those taken out to feed lots were the half fat kinds, cut out from car lots. They established a price range of \$7.25 to \$8.50. There was a ready demand. Replacements in feed lots have been limited all season so that the final clean-up of the fed supply will be accomplished without the usual hangover.

February receipts were 117,588 or 11,105 larger than in the same month 1938. Kansas and Texas wheat-field lambs were prominent as the supply source. Total for the two months was 244,327, compared with 215,099 in the same period last year.

C. M. Pipkin

St. Joseph

RECEIPTS for the month of February were 86,892, which was 7,171 less than January and 4,319 under February a year ago. Of the month's total, 24,039 came from Nebraska feed lots, 19,389 from Colorado, 1,542 from Wyoming, 1,238 from Idaho and Utah, 7,357 from Texas and New Mexico, and 15,614 from Kansas, the bulk of the latter being from wheat fields.

The market on all slaughter classes was a little uneven, but closing values are practically unchanged with a month ago. The month closed with best fed western lambs at \$8.85, with heavier weights down to \$8.25. The high point of the month was \$9.15 on the 27th, and the low top was \$8.65 on the 8th and 21st. Clipped lambs ranged \$7.50 @8.65, according to the growth of wool. Fat ewes sold largely \$4.25 @ 4.65, with \$4.75 as an outside quotation on the extreme close. Clipped yearlings sold \$7 @7.50, with woolskins \$7.50 @8. Two-year-olds ranged \$6 @6.75, and old wethers \$4.50 @ 5.50.

H. H. Madden

Omaha

MORE than at any previous time this winter, the fat lamb market is showing indications of having run into a snag. The trouble doesn't seem to be too many lambs, for marketings have been moderate; rather it has been the accumulation of too much poundage per animal.

Early this winter, this contributor suggested that because lambs were carrying more weight than usual when they went on feed and because feed costs were so much lower, lambs might get into an undesirably heavy weight class before they came to market. Apparently, that is exactly what has happened. Here at Omaha lambs weighing up toward 100 pounds and better have been making up an increasing share of the offerings.

First evidence of buyer reaction was growing discrimination against these weights. More recently the weight factor, plus some sluggishness in the dressed mutton trade, has appeared to be operating against sellers all along the line, and on one day recently, the market touched the lowest levels of the year to date. For the time being, at least, this break checked marketings and prices recovered some of their loss, but what the ultimate outcome will be remains to be seen.

About two and one-half months are left of the current fed lamb season. Latest check of the Colorado and western Nebraska feed lots showed not quite so many lambs left to sell during that period as remained at this time a

year ago. Last year, it will be recalled, prices strengthened materially in March after the February low, and then slid back again almost to their February levels, in the face of improvement in the markets for other livestock. But at no time during that period did good lambs sell much higher than they are at present, and most of the time they were below current quotations.

General conditions affecting meat consumption now appear to be more favorable than they were a year ago, and cattle prices, which influence the lamb trade to some extent, are sharply higher than they were at the corresponding time of 1938. That much is in the favor of lamb feeders, so perhaps apprehensions regarding the immediate future are groundless. Still, too many weighty lambs have wrecked profitable markets before and they could do it again.

Getting farther into the spring, all factors indicate an increase in new crop lamb supplies over a year ago. Development of California lambs is reported as somewhat delayed, but the numbers are there, and conditions in other range areas have been favorable to a good lamb crop. Ewe holdings are generally regarded as on the increase through the West, and the heavy buying of breeding ewes by corn belt farmers in the past six months or so forecasts larger native production.

Outside factors which may influence future lamb prices are not especially favorable. Both the cattle and hog markets have shown evidence of top-heaviness of late, despite moderate selling. More cattle are generally believed to be on feed than a year ago, and most of them are expected to be marketed during the latter half of the year. Conservative observers see in this a forecast of a downward trend in cattle values after May and June. How directly this will affect lamb values cannot, of course, be predicted.

One thing which the profitable prices of the current feeding season do foreshadow is a broad demand for feeding lambs next fall. It will be recalled that the losses of the previous winter were largely blamed for the backwardness of lamb feeders in making purchases last autumn, but this year that factor

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promises to work the other way, for a good year usually makes feeders eager for lambs the following season. Size of crops and the prices of feeds this coming season also will have some influence.

Byron Demorest

Denver

IDAHO and Utah fed fewer lambs this year than last, and sent fewer of them to market, while Colorado feeders were holding back for anticipated higher prices. The result was a shortage of lambs received at Denver during the month of February. Receipts for the month totaled only 114,400 as compared to 156,331 during February, 1938. Despite the fact that fewer lambs were fed in Colorado this year than last, it is estimated that feed lots of the state contain just about the same number of lambs on March 1 as a year ago. This condition results from the fact that feeders have been holding their shipments back for expected higher prices.

Closing February prices for fat lambs were weak to 15 cents lower than at the outset of the month. A top of \$8.90, freight paid, for fed lambs for bulk of the supply was set on the first day of the month. Other sales were made at \$8.60 to \$8.85 F.P.R. and \$8.40 to \$8.60 flat.

On February 2 and 10 lambs sold at \$9 F.P.R. at Denver. Toward the second week of the month prices declined until best lambs were selling at \$8.50 F.P.R., and late month advances brought values to \$8.85 for best fat lambs. Heavy lambs were somewhat discriminated against at all markets during the month. Bulk of the fat lambs marketed here during the month came from Colorado, Wyoming and Idaho with some shipments from New Mexico.

Feeder lambs were rather scarce and fleshy kinds sold at \$8 to \$8.60. Ewes sold at \$4 to \$4.70 flat and up to \$4.80 F.P.R. Older ewes sold down to \$3.

Most of the feeder lambs sent out during the month went to Nebraska finishers with some to northern Colorado and Iowa finishers. Fat lambs totaling 22,300 were purchased for shipment to the east coast, and 30,300 were slaughtered at Denver.

W. N. Fulton

With the Women's Auxiliaries

(Continued from page 26)

tion, contributed many toys through Mrs. Jackson's enthusiasm. So at the convention, there was displayed in the lobby of the Commercial Hotel a wonderful assortment of woolen articles—toys, slippers, purses etc; all made by the ladies of the Klickitat, Lower Valley and Yakima auxiliaries. These brought in from their sale the sum of \$50 with the possibility of more money coming in—a credit to the skill of the women who responded so well to our past president's fine example.

We might add that our past president also gave a personal prize to the member bringing in the most members during the year. This was won by Mrs. Leonard Longmire of Yakima, and was presented at the convention.

She also caused a list of garments knitted and crocheted during the year to be made out, and in response to this we found that over 160 garments of all types either crocheted or knitted in yarn during the year, had been made by the Washington Auxiliary.

Mrs. W. A. Roberts, Yakima, in making a presentation of a lovely mirror to Mrs. Jackson, well echoed the sentiments of all the members when she said that she hoped that every time Mrs. Jackson looked into this mirror she would see reflected the friendly faces of the auxiliary women, who wished her well in the future, and who hoped to enjoy her presence at the future meetings.

Mrs. Neil Robertson
Chairman of Program Committee
during the Convention

Wildlife Conference

PROBLEMS of wildlife management on the national forests have been receiving the attention of the officials of that division of the Forest Service in a two-week conference in San Francisco, which commenced February 21 and was to be followed by a field study of wildlife ranges in national forest areas of California and Nevada.

A major question before the con-

ference, according to the statement issued by S. B. Show, forester for the California Region of the United States Forest Service, was the maintenance of proper seasonal balance between wildlife and feeding capacities of the range, which has become more of a problem in recent years with the increase in numbers of big game animals.

"Supply rather than demand will continue to control the Forest Service policy of encouraging or limiting hunting, trapping and fishing in the national forests," Mr. Show said. "Under this policy of managing game, several species of wildlife in certain sections have increased so rapidly that the supply warrants the encouragement of more hunting or even greater limits. For instance, for every three deer in the national forests of the whole country in 1924 there are now eight, so hunting must now be considered a means of controlling the surplus.

"It is the aim of the Forest Service to maintain a rich plant coverage as well as a varied and interesting population of wildlife. By adjusting the number of hunting permits and the bag limits, with the cooperation of the state game officials, the Forest Service is finding it practical to fit the hunting to the supply."

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National Wool Growers Assn.

509 McCormick Building Salt Lake City, Utah

Around the Range Country

(Continued from page 10)

Roosevelt (Klickitat County)

It has been a very open winter here with less feeding than usual. More moisture is needed to start the grass, (February 27). Alfalfa hay has been offered for \$6 in the stack.

The number of ewes bred to lamb is about the same as a year ago. There has been a very small winter's loss.

The coyote situation here has not changed for the better, and some effort has been made to secure an increased bounty.

There has been no liquidation of sheep outfits around here to my knowledge. Expenses of production have not declined any since 1938, except for some grocery items.

Carl Svarverud

OREGON

Unusually cold weather prevailed the first half, followed by much milder and more favorable weather. Snows and rains were rather frequent, but not very heavy. Little snow cover and considerable spring growth were favorable for livestock, in the lower western areas. Lambs and calves were mostly in thriving condition, and livestock generally were doing fairly well.

CALIFORNIA

The first two weeks were unusually cold, while milder weather prevailed later, to the advantage of livestock. Spring vegetation is making fairly good growth, and livestock have done well in middle and southern counties. Cold rains and snows were unfavorable for lambs in northern sections, but no important losses were reported. Most livestock are in satisfactory condition.

Stewarts Point (Sonoma County)

Weather has been mild here along the coast, but not warm enough for growing good feed (February 26). The number of sheep getting hay and grain in this section is smaller than usual.

There is no material difference in the number of ewes bred to lamb this year and last. This winter's losses are very low.

No sheep outfits in this section have been liquidated by creditors.

Production costs have not declined materially. Labor charges have remained the same along with feed costs.

A. H. Richardson Estate

NEVADA

Abnormally cold weather prevailed through the month, with frequent light to moderate snowfalls. This afforded ample moisture on all winter ranges, where forage has been fairly good. Average to moderately heavy feeding of most livestock in domestic pens or pastures was necessary, but practically all animals have held up in pretty good shape. Some early indoor lambing is reported; and sheep are generally in good circumstances.

Elko (Elko County)

Sheepmen report an ideal winter, with sheep on the desert doing better than in average years. There are fewer sheep on feed (hay) in Elko County than in the previous two winters (February 27). Alfalfa hay in the stack sells from \$3 to \$6. Three dollars has been paid on a few emergency sales of wild hay.

The same number of ewes were bred to lamb this year as last. Our winter losses were not so great. The average loss may be reduced from 10 per cent to 5 per cent.

Just a few outfits have been liquidated by creditors, the number being less than in the past five years. There has been some reduction in wages, but not enough to offset the decline in 1938 prices for lamb and wool. The wage level in this area is still \$10 per month more than other areas nearby.

Joseph W. Wilson, County Agent

Minden (Douglas County)

Weather here is much milder than in the last three years. We have had much less stormy weather. The number of range sheep getting hay is the same as usual (March 2). Alfalfa hay in the stack is \$6 per ton.

We have approximately the same number of ewes bred to lamb this year as one year ago. We had less winter loss this year.

Trapping has reduced the number of coyotes in this section.

No sheep outfits have been liquidated by creditors.

D. J. B.

UTAH

This was one of the coldest, snowiest Februaries in many years, temperatures being persistently below normal, though without many extremely cold days. Gradually the snow covered the forage on the pasture and range lands nearer the mountains, necessitating the feeding of practically everything; while the western and southeastern winter ranges had just about the right amount of snow for good foraging. As a consequence livestock have done fairly well, and are in satisfactory condition considering the time of year.

COLORADO

Moderately cold weather prevailed, though with frequent milder days to make conditions rather favorable. Frequent snows occurred, but they were not very heavy, and snow did not accumulate to great depths in winter range territory. Moderately heavy feeding was reported much of the month, but livestock are mostly in thriving condition. Some drifting and crusting of snow late in the month was detrimental to range stuff, and wind added to the inclemency; but most animals are doing fairly well.

Hooper (Alamosa County)

Grain is cheap here. Oats, barley and wheat are selling at about 75 cents per hundredweight. We have had more below zero weather this month than we have had in the last 40 years, although stock is doing well. However, a

You're looking at some "Railroad Implements"



American farmers have three and a third billion dollars invested in "farm implements," such as plows and harrows, cultivators, tractors and combines.

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All of which means, the railroads need a fair chance to earn a living, so they'll be in good shape to move farm products to market when you want them to go.

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North Salt Lake

few more are feeding grain than usual. Alfalfa hay in the stack is selling at \$7.

In farm flocks there is an increase of about 10 per cent in ewes bred to lamb this year compared with last. Our winter losses were about 3 per cent heavier. There has been quite a little loss in farm sheep because of pre-lambing fever, usually caused by lack of exercise.

Coyotes are still plentiful and bold. Hunters are having a hard time with snowstorms.

John Fultz

Center
(Saguache County)

We have had a little more snow than usual, but it did not come until late and feed is ample (March 2). About the same number of sheep are getting hay and grain as in the previous years. February was a little colder than usual,

but the sheep are in good shape. Stacked alfalfa is selling for \$7 and \$8.

The number of ewes bred to lamb this year is about the same for range sheep, with 20 per cent more in fields around Center and Monte Vista. The only increase possible here is on farms. There is no more room on the forest, and it is more likely there will be cuts than increases in permitted sheep. Our winter losses of ewes are about the same as last year, both years being very small.

No sheep outfits have been liquidated by creditors. Production expense did not decline in 1938 to correspond with lower markets.

W. E. Gardner

Del Norte
(Rio Grande County)

All sheep here have been off the ranges since the first of the year. February was unusually cold and windy, but feed could be bought reasonably, and all stock is in fair to good condition (March 1). Alfalfa hay is selling from \$7.50 to \$8 per ton.

Due to Forest Service limitations, there has been no increase in the number of ewes bred to lamb this year. I believe our winter losses are about 10 per cent higher than last year. But there have been more trappers than usual around here, which has reduced our coyote trouble.

There has been no liquidation of sheep outfits that I know of.

Harley Fuchs

Radium
(Grand County)

All of our sheep have been fed this winter since December 15 as we have from two to five feet of snow, twice as much as usual (February 28). We usually feed our sheep from three to six months. There is enough hay in this section for our needs, selling from \$6 to \$6.50 in the stack.

A few more ewes were bred to lamb this year. Our winter losses have been about the same.

Coyotes have been doing quite a lot of damage here.

There have been no cases of liquidation of sheep outfits here.

I haven't noticed any declines in the cost of production.

Carl Forester

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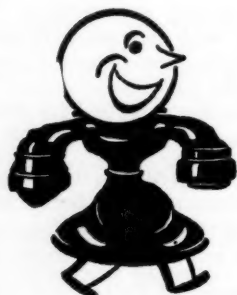
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NEW MEXICO

Unusually cold weather prevailed, through the month and generally over the state; the snowfall was much heavier and deeper than usual, and proved hard on all livestock, especially those on the higher winter range lands. Most range forage is good, excepting only in the southwest where forage is short. Livestock averages in fair to good shape, excepting for some poorer animals in west-central sections, where snow covers the feed. However, losses have been light.

Carlsbad
(Eddy County)

Weather and feed conditions on the range have been better this year; we have had more moisture and a smaller number of range sheep than usual are getting hay or grain. Baled hay is priced from \$10 to \$15 per ton (February 18).

About the same number of ewes were bred to lamb this year, and about the same number of ewe lambs were kept over last fall.

No sheep outfits have been liquidated by creditors. Cost of production

did not decline in 1938 to correspond with lower markets. We had more expenses and lower prices for wool and lambs.

W. C. Bates

Roswell
(Chaves County)

We have a smaller number of range sheep getting hay and grain this winter. Alfalfa hay in the stack is \$12 per ton (February 16).

About 50 per cent more ewes were bred to lamb in 1939 than in the previous season and more ewe lambs were kept over last fall for breeding purposes also.

We have more coyotes in this part of the country because there is no state or county bounty and fur is much cheaper.

Creditors have not liquidated any outfits in this country. There has been no reduction in the cost of production.

Bloom Land & Cattle Co.

Turn
(Valencia County)

In my locality, range conditions are better than for the past two years, and are in general better than the previous

two or three years. We have not had as yet (February 27) to feed anything at all, either cattle or sheep, and last year we were having to feed some cake on the grass ranges, which were a great deal shorter than at the present time. Alfalfa hay is about \$10 stacked, and baled it is \$12.50 per ton for number 1 grade, and down to \$5 for the poorer grades. These prices are on the farms, not delivered.

There are fewer sheep here on the range than usual as the people who have been in the business in the past could not make the sheep pay expenses and have sold and put cattle on the ranges, or sold ranches together with sheep. Winter losses of ewes have been about normal compared with the three years past.

Coyotes have been increasing as there seems to be very little interest among ranchmen to get rid of them. Although the government trappers have helped out, they can not do it all without the ranchmen's help. My men and myself poison continuously.

I have not heard of any outfits being liquidated on account of distress.

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Expenses have increased some in the last year, as all the men who used to work at the herding business are trying to get on the W.P.A., or have gotten on and are wanting to stay put as they have little work and good pay and do not want to endure the hardships which are sometimes necessary in the sheep business. I think if an investigation were made sometimes on the part of the W.P.A. before taking people's word for their conditions, it would help us sheepmen out some. It seems to be the sentiment of the laboring people that if they can land a W.P.A. job, they are fixed up for the rest of their lives and do not want to work at anything else so long as they have employment along those lines. My opinion is that if these conditions continue, the sheepmen will all have to fence and let the W.P.A. look after all the men now employed on the sheep ranches here.

J. W. Conant

Roswell
(Chaves County)

Feed conditions on the range have been excellent since February 1, although we have had a good deal of cold and windy weather. These conditions have been better than February of two or three years ago. On the range we feed cottonseed cake instead of hay and grain, and fed less during February this year, than in the same month for a good many years past. Alfalfa hay in this country is baled and stored in barns, \$12 is the price per ton in the barn (March 1).

About the same number of ewes were bred to lamb this year. Our death loss in ewes has been less.

Coyotes are more numerous and seem to be drifting.

There has been no liquidation of outfits by creditors.

Our production expense did not decline in 1938 to correspond with lower markets.

John P. Cauhope

ARIZONA

Excessively cold weather occurred most of the month, with frequent precipitation—rains lower down and snows at all intermediate and higher elevations. Snows, low temperatures and winds have been unfavorable for live-

stock in most places. At lower elevations spring feed has been delayed. Livestock conditions are mostly satisfactory, cattle are holding up well.

WESTERN TEXAS

Abnormally cold, dry weather prevailed, especially over the northern portion. Livestock withstood the weather inclemencies, however, and losses have been small. Ranges have remained open and there has been ample feed and forage, which leaves livestock generally in good to excellent condition. Conditions are still better over the northern portion, the southern portion still suffering for moisture, warmth and range forage.

Arden
(Lion County)

There has been no rain here to speak of, with the exception of a few scattered showers. There have been one or two cold snaps that got a few early lambs, but losses were not large. The range is very dry and the feed is short. Feed conditions are worse than the previous two or three years. The majority of sheep are being fed now and have been for some time. There is more feeding going on now than in several years. Baled hay is used here, but is not fed on the range. Cottonseed products and mixed grains, etc., are fed range sheep. Hay is from \$16 to \$18 per ton.

About the same number of ewes were bred to lamb in 1939 as in 1938. Our winter loss of ewes has been small, as it was last year.

Creditors have not liquidated any outfits around here.

Cost of production did not decline last year to agree with lower market prices.

Joe Funk

Famous Southdown Flock To be Sold

J. PIERPONT MORGAN'S famous registered Southdown Aldenham Flock, located at Wall Hall, Aldenham Watford, Herts, England, is to be sold on July 20, 1939. This flock during the past 17 years has won 125 championships.

Public Domain Grazing Policies

(Continued from page 20)

no owner of land, and this would apply to you stockmen as well as to anyone else, would tolerate the thought of permitting his property to be administered by someone else. Finally, administration by advisory boards would mean control by beneficiaries whose interests, as the past has shown, in essence are or may be, antagonistic to those of the owner. I would not think of turning over the administration of the national parks to the concessionaires in the parks. You would not deposit your money in a bank which set up a committee of creditors to manage its affairs.

The public lands lie in many states. To adopt different sets of administrative principles in different states would result in confusion, overlapping of functions, and waste of money. Thousands of steers are herded across state lines, and I think that you would have difficulty educating them to graze under one state's rules in the morning and then change their eating habits to comply with another state's regulations in the afternoon. There must be one standard to which all the grazing districts must conform in order to assure efficient administration and protection equal for all the users of the range.

I now come to the subject of Senate bill 571 introduced in the present session of the Seventy-sixth Congress on January 12 of this year. This bill proposes that the Taylor Grazing Act be amended so as to empower grazing district advisers to adjudicate grazing privileges on the federal range and perform other administrative functions pertaining to its management. In other words, the bill would give certain prospective beneficial users of the range a more potent voice in the selection of permittees. On its face, the bill is designed to subordinate the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to that of advisory boards by placing upon him the onus of assigning reasons for his disapproval of any recommendations which the boards may see fit to make.

The theories of administration embodied in the proposed measure are

contrary to orderly procedure and inconsistent with the spirit and intent of the Taylor Grazing Act. I do not think that any of you stockmen would be happy to find yourselves subject to regulations by your rivals. The public lands of the United States belong to all the people, and the National Government must have power to regulate and protect these lands. In my opinion it would be unwise for such authority to be granted to one special group to the exclusion of all others, especially when that group has a primary interest in the use of the range. To require that the federal authority be accountable to its subordinate employees for any action taken by him is unthinkable merely as a matter of good government. By the same token, it would be unfair to place responsibility on the stockmen in matters relating to larger national issues.

In the adjudication of grazing privileges on the federal range, it is well to remember that every applicant is directly affected. Decisions must be impartial, must be based on facts and be fully compatible with the law. I should be shirking my duty and unfairly burdening busy stockmen with irksome responsibility were I to ask them to perform the duties imposed upon me by the Taylor Grazing Act. For the greatest good of all the interests involved in this splendid conservation measure, it is necessary that the functions of advisory boards remain at all times subordinate to officials of the Department who are required to exercise impartial and independent judgment in all cases.

The very nature of the lands to be administered and the varying conditions of the several localities, scattered as they are between the Canadian and Mexican borders, require a degree of cooperation and flexibility of administration which could not be attained under the terms of the proposed bill.

The district advisory boards have furnished an effective channel connecting the officials in charge of grazing and the users of the range. I would like to avoid any controversy concerning the advisory boards under the proposed law. Why inject a highly controversial question at a time when everything is running smoothly; when there is peace and understanding? The ad-

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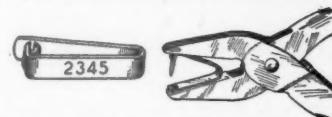
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visory board system is on trial before the Nation. Everybody who has an interest in the West wants it to succeed. The Taylor Grazing Act is also on trial before the Nation. In contributing to its success, the district advisers occupy a unique position. It seems to me that any attempt at this time to antagonize public opinion would be a grave mistake and a serious blow to the stock-grazing industry.

Our exclusive concern is the well-being and prosperity of the stockmen. The record of the new Director of Grazing, Richard H. Rutledge, is additional assurance that, under the Taylor Grazing Act, the range will be administered in the public interest, which means the interest of the users of the range. But the management of federal lands must remain a federal function.

I hope that the time will come soon when all of the livestock men of the country will see that the administration of publicly owned grazing lands is primarily a problem of conservation. When this is fully realized, it will do more than save the livestock range; it will bring a new element of harmony into the conservation program in America.

The trend is in that direction. As soon as we succeed in eliminating overgrazing, there will be a slow but steady improvement of the grasslands, which to the stockmen mean steady improvement of their stock. As we rebuild the productive range, the opposition to controlled grazing on public lands will diminish in intensity. This will give a broader outlook, a more sympathetic attitude toward national programs based on a variety of human interests.

It is to be regretted that nearly every attempt to round out the national park system, by additions of territory primarily suitable for parks, meets with an opposition which frequently includes some of the organizations of livestock raisers. My belief is that this situation results from misunderstanding rather than from any real clash of interests. It is a part of sound national-park policy not to permit grazing by domestic livestock in areas set aside for preservation and recreation. But this does not mean that in the establishment of a new national park there need be any harsh

interference with grazing privileges upon which individual ranchers have based their livelihood. * * *

Sheep Shearing Bulletins

"HOW to Harvest the Farm Flock Wool Crop" and "The Custom Shearer" have just been issued by the Chicago Flexible Shaft Company as their bulletins No. 23 and 24.

With illustrations and descriptive matter, these booklets give the ABC's

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of machine shearing in very compact form. The first, as its title indicates, is for assisting the farm flock owner in his shearing problems, while the second covers the question from the standpoint of the professional shearer.

Copies of these bulletins may be obtained, free of charge, by writing to the Chicago Flexible Shaft Company, 5600 Roosevelt Road, Chicago, Illinois.

Sheep News from South Dakota

THE Wool Grower is before me. The article by Mr. Gillis is wonderful, and we sheepmen as well as others should ponder over it. This gentleman is perhaps unknown to us fellows in western South Dakota, but we hope to hear more of him.

Western South Dakota has had some tough weather in the last thirty days (February 28), some cold windy days that were not so good for ranging sheep, but as hay supplies are ample, no losses are reported. Fortunately, there is but little snow and that is in drifts. Sheep are going into the latter part of the winter with prospects of good lambing conditions. All sheep are being fed a corn ration with some feeding cake, but corn being cheaper is the prevailing supplemental feed. Ranges are open with but little snow, making it perhaps a little dry for best results.

There have been no sales of sheep, although there has been some inquiry at a fair price. But as sheepmen are trying to increase their numbers, few sales are expected. Wool buyers are beginning to feel out the sentiment, but there has been no business done up to date. Sales accounts are being made by the National, and at a very satisfactory price for the '38 clip. Expectations are for a better price for the '39 product.

I want to again mention the fact that the coyote menace is being taken care of. There are few where there are usually so many. The sheepmen in this county cooperate splendidly with the government and local organizations, with the result that we can lamb with less help than usual.

Buffalo, S. D. F. M. Gilbert